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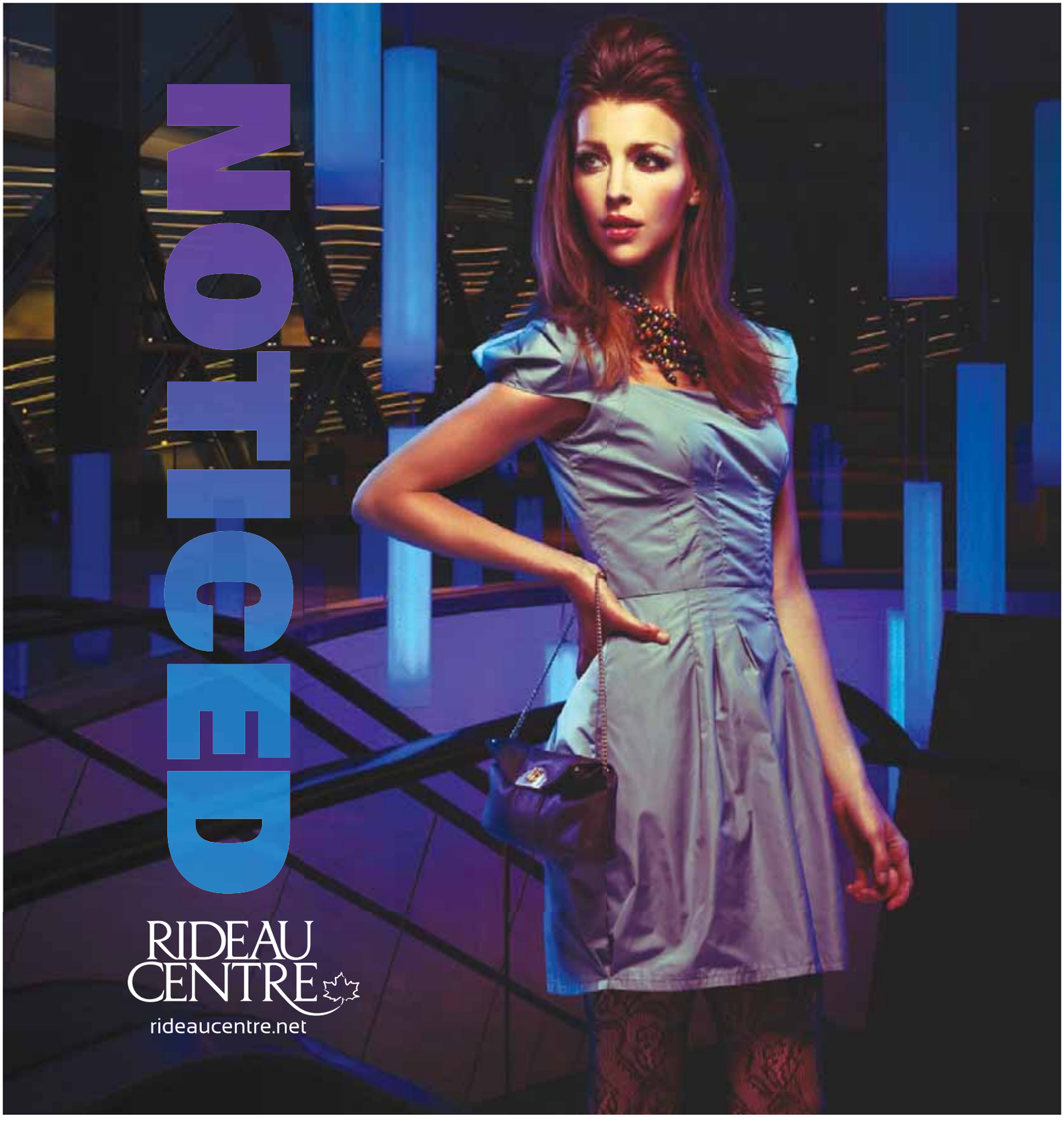

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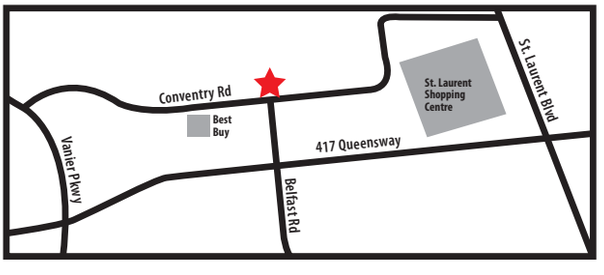

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MAKE YOUR PARTY A SMASH
SIX TIPS FOR YOUR DINNER PARTY {page 39}

MERYL OR MICHELLE?
REEL GUYS' OSCAR PICKS
{page 23}

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Premier touts anti-bully legislation to students

Would require all Ontario school boards to create policies for bullying prevention

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty spoke to high school students at Glebe Collegiate Institute in Ottawa on Thursday about bullying and his new Accepting Schools Act 2011 legislation.

"We want to make sure that all our schools are warm, secure, safe, inviting and accepting of all our students, regardless of their ethnicity, of their faith, of their place of origin, of their culture or traditions or gender or sexual orientation," McGuinty told Grade 10 and 11 students.

If passed, the legislation would require all school boards in Ontario to create policies for bullying prevention — including tougher consequences for bullies — and to support students who want to promote understanding and acceptance.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

▶ MPP Yassir Naqvi, left, and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty talk to a student at Glebe Collegiate Institute in Ottawa Thursday.

Friends with benefits or a one-night stand?

Study explores sexual landscape among young Canadians ◐ 'Casual sex' oversimplifies range of relationships: Researcher {page 4}

Business

eBay setting up shop for the holidays

Online retailer opening up temporary store in London's Soho district {page 21}

Sports

Senators let the 'Daug' off the leash

Kaspars Daugavins gaining trust and proving he belongs {page 40}

1 news

Debate tackles proposed lobbyist registry

STEVE COLLINS
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

City officials debated on Thursday just who should be considered a lobbyist in a proposed online lobbyist registry.

Ultimately, officials passed a motion aimed at exempting volunteer community organizations on non-monetary matters.

The registry would require a record of meetings between city councillors or staff and those trying to influence legislation or procurement in a searchable online database.

But several councillors expressed concerns that if the registry requirements cast their net too widely, every conversation with constituents they bump into could be considered lobbying.

Volunteer members of community associations may be in their professional lives lawyers, lobbyists or developers, Coun. Katherine Hobbs pointed out.

"They live among us," she said.

Guy Giorno, a partner at law firm Fasken Martineau and former chief of staff to Prime Minister Stephen Harper who gave a speech to the committee Thursday about the regulations, served as an example of this complexity.

Asked in which capacity he was appearing, Giorno replied, "It's my personal opinion as a lawyer who's an expert in this area."

STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

▶ Guy Giorno

Hackathon to build a better city

- The event takes place at city hall at 1 p.m. on Saturday
- Admission is free of charge

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Developers collaborate with each other at Ottawa's first edition of the International Open Data Hackathon in 2010.

Developers from the around the world are again getting together in their own municipalities on Saturday to discuss the future of their cities in the context of open data, and Ottawa is no exception.

The second edition of the Ottawa version of the International Open Data Hackathon will take place Saturday at city hall at 1 p.m. with the theme Better Neighbours Through Open Data.

Open data co-ordinators and the public are invited to attend the event to learn how open data can better serve the public.

"It's an opportunity for citizens to come into the same room and ... to develop community and work on projects around that data," said Alex Lougheed, one of the event's organizers.

He said developers can create free applications with open data, but only when they have access.

Lougheed added that the City of Ottawa has been slow to release their open data to the public — particularly with its real-time GPS data of OC Transpo buses — but is pleased next year's budget includes a commitment to open data.

The event is free of charge and anyone can register for it at opendataottawainternational-2011.eventbrite.com.

"We have no idea what projects will emerge from this, so it's super exciting."
ALEX LOUGHEED, ORGANIZER

For more local news, go to metronews.ca/ottawa

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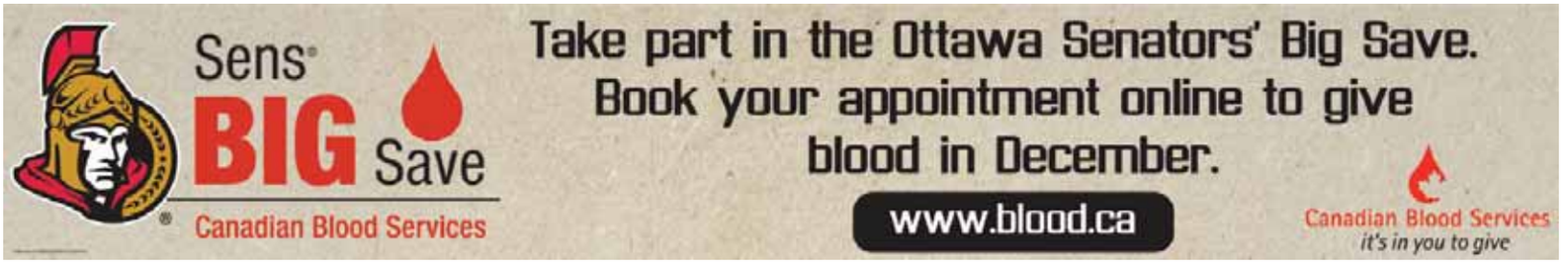

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Casual sex more than just sex: Study

Researcher says the term 'casual sex' oversimplifies the range of relationships going on today

Modern life is complicated, and the sexual landscape for young adults is no exception, researchers at University of Ottawa have found.

Friends with benefits, booty calls, hookups and one-night stands are just a few of the arrangements outlined in a new study exploring the sexual landscape among Canadians ages 18 to 24.

And it found each relationship has specific ground rules when it comes to behaviour, communication, monogamy and secrecy. The study, released Thursday, was published in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality.

"When we talk about casual sex, people use it as a blanket term to cover everything," said lead author Jocelyn Wentland, a PhD student in experimental psychology. "But as this research shows, there's a lot going on in between."

And much of it is nothing like the one-night stand of the past, where people had a sexual encounter and never saw each other again, she added.

"Friends with benefits," for example, refers to sex within the context of an ongoing friendship, whereas "booty calls" are for the sole purpose of sexual activity. Friends have more at stake, so the terms and conditions, as well as the emotional terrain, are different. Earlier studies have shown one-third to two-thirds of college and university students have engaged in the two types of relationships.

Research was based on interviews with 23 young adults. The next stage is an expanded survey of more than 900 youth.

TORSTAR NEW SERVICES

DALE ROBINETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

▶ In this film publicity image released by Paramount, Ashton Kutcher, right, and Natalie Portman are shown in a scene from No Strings Attached. The movie explores the complicated sexual landscape studied by University of Ottawa researchers.

Opposition leader targets feds on infrastructure, policing

Federal Opposition leader Nicole Turmel blamed neglect by successive federal governments for a host of infrastructure woes faced by Canada's municipalities Thursday.

"It seems to be a no-brainer, but after decades of Liberal and Conservative inaction, Canadian municipalities are juggling a $123-billion infrastructure deficit, and staring down billons more in future upgrades and repairs," she said in a speech to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Ottawa. "On any given day, Canadians are dealing with boil-water advisories, crumbling bridges, traffic gridlock and unreliable public transportation."

With the current federal infrastructure program set to expire in 2014, her party will pressure the government to provide promised long-term funding.

Turmel also took aim at the government's plans to build new prisons while failing to help municipalities absorb the costs of policing. "New Democrats know municipalities are shouldering the growing share of Canada's policing duties," she said, "And they should be getting the support they need. Our solution is clear: make permanent and double the Police Officer Recruitment Fund so that municipalities have the stable funding they need to keep communities safe .... we can't expect municipalities to shoulder the burden alone."

STEVE COLLINS

STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

▶ Interim NDP leader Nycole Turmel speaks to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Thursday at the' Westin Hotel.

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Paving paradise

Museum's decision to turn a small urban oasis into a parking lot has politicians fit to be tarred

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

A city councillor and NDP leadership candidate are teaming up to save a small green space in central Ottawa, saying the Museum of Nature is turning its lawn into a parking lot because the federal government doesn't adequately fund museums.

The Museum of Nature is paving the lawn because it couldn't find funding to build underground parking, Somerset Coun. Diane Holmes and Ottawa Centre MP Paul Dewar said in a joint statement. "The museum made the decision to turn the west lawn into a semi-permanent parking lot — but the larger issue at stake is the consistent failure of the federal government to adequately fund cultural institutions in this country, like our national museums."

Dewar and Holmes are organizing a "gathering" at the museum on Sunday at 3 p.m. to protest the parking lot decision. Dewar will present a petition with more than 500 signatures asking that the west lawn be restored to green space.

ADRIAN WYLD /THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Paul Dewar

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United Way drive falls short, but the campaign rallies on

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

$31.5M
The total funds raised during the official 2011 campaign period.

United Way Ottawa raised more than $31.5 million over the 10 weeks of this year's fundraising campaign — falling just short of its $33.5-million goal.

It's the most money ever raised within the official time frame, and the fundraising isn't over yet, said Max Keeping, chair of the 2011 United Way Campaign.

"I feel very thrilled and I think it's exceptional," Keeping said. "I feel very confident that we can make the $33.5 million by the time the books close on March 31."

Workplace fundraising drives are ongoing and United Way is always accepting donations online at unitedwayottawa.ca

More than 1,400 volunteers raised the money that will go to help low-income students succeed in school, seniors to stay in their own homes and disabled people to find meaningful employment, as well as connecting new Canadians with jobs and finding resources and housing for homeless people.

"We have a unique civic culture of compassion that is unparalleled in the country," Keeping said.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

▶ The United Way donations meter still has a ways to go to reach the 2011 fundraising goal.

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Catch local Doll in The City That Fun Forgot

Grunge band holds its Ottawa CD release party at Live Lounge Dec 9

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Dolls band members pose for a photo with some beer.

STEVE COLLINS
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

If Ottawa rapper The Joynt's song Capcity is an unabashed love letter to his hometown, then local grunge revivalists Doll have written more of a love bite with The City That Fun Forgot.

Frontwoman Christina Kasper admits that the first track on the band's second album, The Ragdoll Diaries, is a shot at city's straight-laced side.

"It's funny because Ottawa's a big city, right, and there is a lot of stuff going on, but I don't know if it's because there's a lot of government folks and stuff like that — it definitely could be a little bit more vibrant than it is," she said.

Doll recorded the new album here with producer Jason Jaknunas (Buried Inside, Souljazz Orchestra).

"We spent over a year recording this album and it sounds really, really polished and good compared to the last one, so we're really proud of it," Kasper said.

"The whole song is like, 'We're still gonna have fun in the city that fun forgot.' So, we're still having a good time in Ottawa. We like it."
CHRISTINA KASPER

Garb against crime bill

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Ghaith El-Mohtar in 17th-century attire.

Young Green party members will be donning 17th-century garb today to protest what they call the "archaic" nature of the Conservative government's mega crime bill.

"Are we trying to minimize the damage to society or are we trying to get vengeance on behalf of the Crown?" asked Ghaith El-Mohtar, president of the University of Ottawa Greens.

The Greens are expecting a small group of about 20 at the Tabaret lawn of the University of Ottawa at 10 a.m. as well as supporters from the school's young Liberals group.

El-Mohtar is concerned about the loss of judicial discretion because of mandatory minimum sentences in the crime bill — which will be illustrated at the protest in a "festive" manner.

"We'll have a wandering judge who will reluctantly jail people with the aid of a cop," he said. **JESSICA SMITH**

CAPITAL COUNTRY

Taylor-made hoedown

How do you attract a lineup to a country music festival that has headliners Taylor Swift, Reba McEntire and Brad Paisley?

Capital Hoedown president and chief executive Denis Benoit says it all starts with a wish list.

"We had a great year last year," he said. "I sat down and started putting a wish list together and then it's a matter of putting an offer together on paper and presenting it to the artists and their people, and they either say yes or they say no."

Benoit got some very big yesses.

"Taylor Swift is really the biggest artist in the world right now, period. She kind of proved that when she won entertainer of the year at the CMAs and favourite female vocalist at the American Music Awards. It doesn't really get any bigger than that," he said.

Tickets went on sale Wednesday at capitalhoedown.net and Benoit says, "Sales have been way bigger than we expected right out of the gate." **SEAN MCKIBBON**

Red Nose to go

Volunteers will be giving drinkers a free ride home this weekend as Operation Red Nose launches its 2011 program. They will pick up anyone who needs a safe ride home, along with their vehicle, and deliver both home safely. The program runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights throughout December, including New Year's Eve. For more information or to volunteer 613-232-0925 or at RedNoseOttawa.ca. **METRO**

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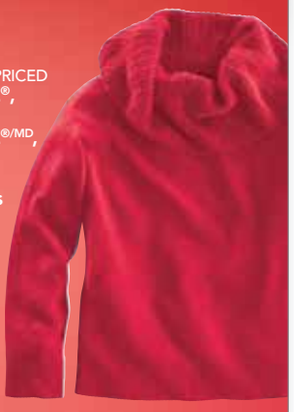

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DAVID JENKINS / WWF-CANADA

▶ A northern landscape with snow-laden tree and blue skies.

PETER EWINS / WWF-CANADA

▶ Aerial view of glaciers and lake on Baffin Island, Nunavut.

THINGS HEATING UP

Scientist not worried about development but says we're not very good at planning smartly

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

A new report issued Wednesday states Canada's Arctic is shifting to a new permanent state — one that is warmer, has less summer sea ice and a changed ocean chemistry.

The Arctic Report Card, prepared by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Program Office (NOAA), tracks the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, biology, ocean, land and Greenland. This year, new sections were added, including greenhouse gases, ozone and UV radiation, ocean acidification and lake ice.

Pete Ewins, director of species conservation at World Wildlife Fund Canada, said the report helps show the continuing trend of extremes that Canada's Arctic is facing.

"There isn't a lot of will from our political leaders to change. Our grandchildren are going to say, 'Why didn't they make the change towards renewable energy sooner?'"
PETE EWINS, WWF SCIENTIST

"You don't take one year and use that as a basis (for not changing behaviour)," said Ewins. "It's all about rates of change, and what the (annual report card) shows us is a very scientific basis that shows the rates of change are speeding towards greater uncertainty and greater risks.

"With a greener and warmer Arctic, more development (in Northern Canada) is likely," said Monica Medina, NOAA principal deputy undersecretary. "Reports like this one help us to prepare for increasing demands on Arctic resources."

Ewins said that he isn't worried about the potential for developing Canada's Arctic, only that it's done smartly.

The report can be viewed online at noaa.gov.

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IN CANADA'S ARCTIC REGION

PAUL NICKLEN/WWF-CANADA

▶ A polar bear and her cub rest on an iceberg in the Arctic Ocean.

Polar bears in danger, whales to benefit

Canada's Arctic will see significant changes as temperatures continue to rise.

The summer sea ice will continue to shrink, and according to the report, the minimum Arctic sea-ice area recorded in September of 2011 was the second-lowest since 1979.

The Arctic will also get greener. The report states Arctic-tundra vegetation continues to increase and is associated with higher air temperatures over most of Canada's Arctic land mass.

The warming of the Arctic threatens polar bear and walrus populations, but also opens feeding areas for whales.

1.5 C Average annual near-surface air temperatures over the Arctic Ocean were 1.5 C greater in 2011 than over the past 30 years.

The retreating ice means the ocean can absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The report states the acidification of the ocean currently appears to be stable. ELISHA DACEY

Watch NOAA's video report at metronews.ca.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Crime? It doesn't panic us

StatsCan study finds Canadians feel safe Westerners more wary

Statistics Canada says the vast majority of Canadians feel they're safe from crime.

The agency has released a study of Canadians aged 15 and older that says 93 per cent of those surveyed said they felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime.

The 2009 study produced results similar to those of the last survey done in 2004 — before the Conservatives took power and began their tough-on-crime campaign.

Crime rates overall have been falling for a decade.

Youth crime is one of the few areas that has risen, yet the study says slightly more younger Canadians were satisfied with their personal safety from crime than older Canadians — 94 per cent of those aged 15-24 compared to 90 per cent aged 65 years and older.

About 83 per cent of respondents said they were not worried when home alone at night, while 90 per cent who walked alone in their neighbourhoods at night said they felt safe doing so.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety zones

- The study indicates those living in Eastern Canada, where crime rates are generally lower, were more satisfied with their personal safety than Westerners, who form the base of Tory support.

Aid for AIDS. It's going swimmingly

▶ Dalhousie students Leanna Winberg — yes, that's her on the left — and Alex McPhedran fight the chills with a joke after their polar bear swim at Chocolate Lake in Halifax on Thursday.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

How to grin and polar bear it

Several students from Dalhousie University left their winter woolies behind on Thursday — for a polar bear swim. It was all for a good cause. They plunged into some chilly water to mark World AIDS Day and to publicize the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Dare campaign, which aims to raise money and awareness for AIDS research and prevention in Africa.

'Freak accident' costs infielder Tyler an eye

Tyler Lowey remembers every moment of the accident that cost him an eye.

Early in his fourth year with B.C.'s Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack baseball team, the 20-year-old Calgary infielder stepped up to the plate.

"First at-bat, last game of the long weekend," he recalled. "Full count and a high pitch came in."

Lowey swung out in front of the ball, taking a piece of it off the narrow part of his bat. In the next moment, he experienced the worst pain of his life.

"It went straight into my eye.... It was a freak accident I guess," he said. "I wish I had gotten knocked out — that thing crushed my head. They told me later my eye exploded."

Lowey underwent emergency surgery. His right eye could not be saved.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

▶ Tyler Lowey holds a baseball next to his right eye, which was crushed in a "freak accident" at the plate.

That was in early October. Looking back, Lowey admits the road to recovery has been tough. He is now learning how to perform tasks with one eye, including, of course, catching a baseball.

Teammates and friends at Thompson Rivers have kept in close contact. One of his professors, Shawn Thompson, has even begun incorporating Lowey into classroom discussions through Twitter.

Lowey not only wants to return to the classroom but also the baseball field. He is being fitted with a glass eye and hopes to suit up for the Wolfpack next season.

"I have always wanted to play baseball as long as I can," he said. "This doesn't change that."

JEREMY NOLAIS

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Mighty Mo's raise $36M

Movember, the global charity that encourages growing a moustache to raise funds for prostate cancer, says 246,060 Canadians — including MP Justin Trudeau — raised $36.6 million this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Trudeau's Mo

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Abousfian Abdelrazik comments on the UN decision to remove his name from a terrorism blacklist during a news conference Thursday in Montreal.

Man lashes out at government

◐ Removed from UN terror list, but wants public apology from Canadian officials ◐ Still on U.S. no-fly list

A man celebrating his removal from a UN terror watchlist had one message for the people of Canada on Thursday, and a completely different one for the Canadian government.

Abousfian Abdelrazik expressed thanks to Canadians, many of whom offered their help and support while he lived in legal limbo.

His message to the Canadian government was the polar opposite: Thanks for nothing.

He said he and his family suffered a miserable seven years because he was wrongly placed on the terror list, which affected his ability to work, travel or hold a bank account.

"Now I am a free person. Not because of your support, but because of the support of Canadians. Now I wish you realize this fact ... (and) do the right things you were supposed to do a long time ago."

ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK, SPEAKING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

He said his reputation was tarnished and, although his name was stricken from the list this week, Abdelrazik said his heart goes out to other innocent people who remain on the list.

Abdelrazik and his supporters say what made the difference in his case was a vocal lobby and legal effort that shed light on his situation. "It would not be fair to claim this victory as my victory," he told a news conference in Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AFGHANISTAN

Karzai pardons jailed rape victim

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is pardoning an Afghan woman serving a 12-year prison sentence for having sex out of wedlock after she was raped by a relative.

Karzai's office also said the woman and her attacker agreed to marry. That would reverse an earlier decision by the woman, who had previously refused a judge's offer of freedom if she agreed to wed the rapist. Thursday's statement says Karzai decided to forgive the rest of the woman's sentence after hearing from judicial officials. It's not clear how much time the woman has served.

Her plight was highlighted in a documentary blocked by the EU because it feared the women profiled would be endangered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minister saddened by cenotaph vandalism

Canada's veterans affairs minister says every citizen has a duty to preserve the country's war memorials.

Steven Blaney says he's saddened and appalled about vandalism at a cenotaph in Regina's Victoria Park.

Someone spray-painted obscene graffiti on the east side of the monument to soldiers.

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▶ Green party Leader Elizabeth May leaves a press conference at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa yesterday.

GREEN PARTY LEADER OFFERS HER TALENTS TO SOUTH PACIFIC

Green party Leader Elizabeth May says since her own government doesn't want her contribution at an international conference on climate change, she's offered it to the South Pacific nation of Tuvalu.

May calls it a "gross insult" the federal government has excluded her and other opposition MPs from the Canadian delegation heading to a key climate conference in South Africa.

She says she and opposition environment critics sent the Prime Minister's Office a letter offering to pay their own way to the conference in Durban and they haven't received so much as a reply.

May even tried to join the Tuvalu delegation but missed the deadline.

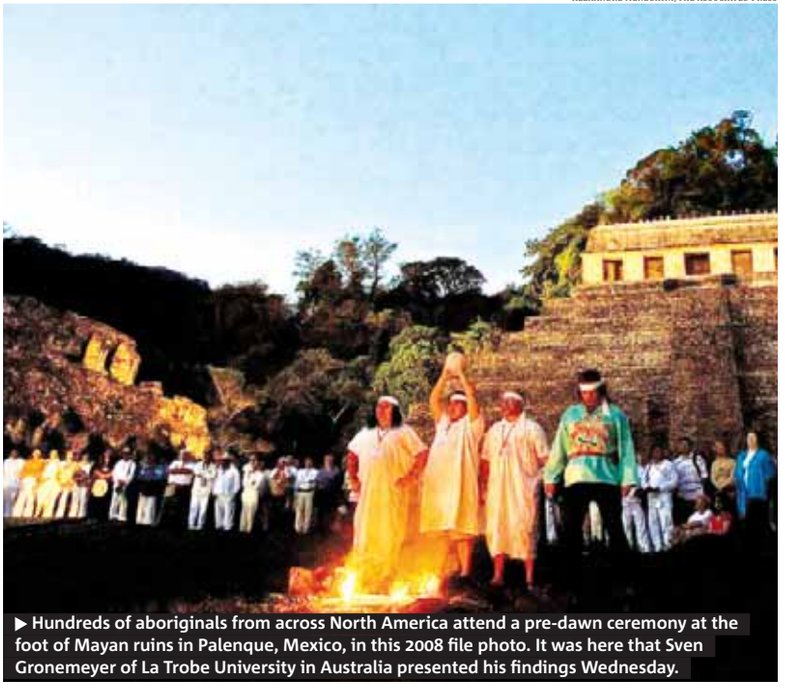
May says excluding her — the lone Green party MP in the House of Commons — is one thing. Excluding the environment critics from the official Opposition NDP and Liberals is unprecedented.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

German expert rules out 2012 apocalypse

Famous Mayan tablet details coming of new era, not end of world says expert ◐ World-changing event to take place on Dec. 21, 2012

ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Hundreds of aboriginals from across North America attend a pre-dawn ceremony at the foot of Mayan ruins in Palenque, Mexico, in this 2008 file photo. It was here that Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University in Australia presented his findings Wednesday.

The end is not near.

At least that's according to a German expert who says his decoding of a Mayan tablet with a reference to a 2012 date denotes a transition to a new era and not a possible end of the world as others have read it.

The interpretation of the hieroglyphs by Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University in Australia was presented for the first time Wednesday at the archeological site of Palenque in southern Mexico.

His comments came less than a week after Mexico's archaeology institute acknowledged there was a second reference to the 2012 date in Mayan inscriptions, touching off another round of talk about whether it predicts the end of the world.

Gronemeyer has been studying the stone tablet found years ago at the archeological site of Tortuguero in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Tabasco.

He said the inscription describes the return of mysterious Mayan god Bolon Yokte at the end of a 13th period of 400 years, known as Baktuns, on the equivalent of Dec. 21, 2012. Mayans considered 13 a sacred number. There's nothing apocalyptic in the date, he said.

The text was carved about 1,300 years ago. The stone has cracked, which has made the end of the passage almost illegible.

Gronemeyer said the inscription refers to the end of a cycle of 5,125 years since the beginning of the Mayan Long Count calendar in 3113 B.C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apocalypse 101

- **Last week, Mexico's** National Institute of Anthropology said a second inscription mentioning the 2012 date is on the carved or moulded face of a brick.
- **Many experts doubt the** second inscription is a definite reference to the date cited as the possible end of the world, saying there is no future-tense marking as there is on the other tablet.
- **The institute has tried to** dispel talk of a 2012 apocalypse. This week it arranged a special round table of Mayan experts.

Do you suffer from GRASS allergies?

Kanata Allergy Services, in conjunction with Kingston General Hospital, is looking for people to participate in a study about an investigational drug for grass allergies.

If you sneeze from May to mid-July and have a runny nose and itchy eyes that make you miserable, chances are you suffer from grass allergies. You may be eligible to participate if you are 18 to 65 years of age and have had grass allergy symptoms for at least two years.

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For more information, please call Jeanne at 613-599-5700 ext. 23 or email: kanataallergy@gmail.com

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In search of new spies

U.K. agency recruiting self-taught cyber-hackers James Bond types with no math skills need not apply

A British government spy agency is using an anonymous code-breaking web page to recruit self-taught hackers "we might not reach otherwise," a spokesman for the U.K.'s Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

GCHQ, which works with the legendary British spy agencies MI5 and MI6, launched the page "gently" nearly a month ago with no clues about its source. "We kind of seeded it on to some social media elements," the spokesman told the Toronto Star yesterday.

GCHQ admitted its old recruiting networks, most famously Oxford and Cambridge graduates, don't always work. "Traditionally, cyber specialists enter the organization as graduates," the agency said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ODD ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A member of hacker organization Chaos Computer Club works on his computer. A British spy agency is out to recruit self-taught hackers.

Burma. U.S. ties

▶ Opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi delivers her speech during an event to mark World AIDS Day yesterday.

KHIN MAUNG WIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinton meets Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi had dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last night in a diplomatic residence in the port city of Yangon (formerly known as Rangoon). The extraordinary meeting came at the end of Clinton's first full day of her trip and was the first by a top-ranking American official in more than 50 years.

Governors want U.S. to reclassify marijuana

The governors of two U.S. states have asked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reclassify marijuana as a medical treatment, so doctors can prescribe it and pharmacists can fill the prescription.

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire and Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee said they want the U.S. government to list marijuana as a Schedule 2 drug.

Marijuana is currently classified as a Schedule 1 drug, meaning it's not accepted for medical treatment and can't be prescribed, administered or dispensed.

Washington and Rhode Island are two of 16 states, plus the District of Columbia, that have laws allowing the medical use of marijuana.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brother! What a triumph

Partial results show the hustling Brotherhood surging in Egypt's poll

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood is emerging as the biggest winner in Egypt's first parliamentary election since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak.

Voters have turned out in unexpected droves.

First-time voter Hassan Abdel-Hamid was undecided — until he got a flyer telling him how to vote from "the guys with the computer."

Outside polling stations, Brotherhood activists were set up with laptop computers, helping voters find their voter numbers.

They posted activists to wave banners, pass out flyers or simply chat up voters waiting in line.

And in a marked change from previous elections, when Brotherhood members touted Islamic credentials, this time they focused on improved services, to appeal to poor voters.

"They outspent, outworked and politically outclassed the other political parties by a huge factor."
ELIJAH ZARWAN, POLITICAL ANALYST

For decades, the Mubarak regime suppressed the Muslim Brotherhood. But it has transformed itself into a potent campaign machine, holding rallies and wallpapering neighbourhoods with banners.

Final election results are expected Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶A statue of legendary singer Umm Kulthum wears an eyepatch — symbolizing protesters wounded in clashes with security forces in Cairo's Tahrir Square on Thursday.

STATUE UNEARTHED

After 3,400 years, king lives on

Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed a large statue of king Amenhotep III who ruled nearly 3,400 years ago.

Amenhotep III was the grandfather of the famed boy-pharaoh Tutankhamun.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities said the latest find was made at the king's funerary temple in the southern city of Luxor.

Thursday's statement said the 13.5-metre-tall statue is made of coloured quartzite.

It is composed of several large pieces that once put together will depict the king as standing.

Amenhotep III ruled from 1390-1352 B.C.

The latest find comes after several other relics of the king were unearthed last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Migrants warned: Don't fall for 'official' scams

Immigration scams are getting so sophisticated that fraudsters now advertise online with websites that perfectly mimic those of official government agencies, U.S. officials say.

And on Thursday as they rolled out a nationwide awareness campaign.

It's aimed at educating legal and illegal immigrants to avoid everything from unlicensed service providers to phoney websites.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BBC host takes flak over quip

- British PM calls Jeremy Clarkson's comments silly
- Network apologizes after getting 4,700 complaints

A British trade union is denouncing a low blow from the host of the popular TV show Top Gear.

The UNISON union Thursday demanded the BBC fire Jeremy Clarkson after the opinionated TV presenter said striking public sector workers should be shot.

Clarkson apologized Thursday afternoon, saying he had not meant anyone to take him seriously when he said strikers who had participated in Britain's largest public-sector walkout in 30 years Wednesday should be executed "in front of their families.

STUART WILSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Clarkson

"I'd have them all shot," Clarkson said on BBC television's One Show on Wednesday. "I mean, how dare they go on strike when they've got these gilt-edged pensions that are going to be guaranteed while the rest of us have to work for a living?"

Clarkson said, "I didn't for a moment intend these remarks to be taken seriously — as I believe is clear if they're seen in context," he said. "If the BBC and I have caused any offence, I'm quite happy to apologize for it alongside them."

The BBC fielded complaints after Clarkson made a joke linking truck drivers with prostitute murders and when he described former prime minister Gordon Brown as a "one-eyed Scottish idiot."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal. Meeting

▶ Queen Elizabeth meets Yoko Ono, right, during a visit to the Museum of Liverpool in Liverpool, England, Thursday.

TIM HALES/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool's best go on display

With 8,000 metres of public space, the recently opened Museum of Liverpool looks at Britain and the world through the eyes of the city, with 6,000 objects showcasing its unique contribution to the world.

Will, Kate, Harry to be Olympic envoys

Prince William, his wife Kate Middleton and brother Prince Harry will be official ambassadors to the 2012 London Olympic Games, royal officials said Thursday.

St. James's Palace said that all three will play a leading role in "encouraging and inspiring the British public to rally behind the 900 Olympic and Paralympic athletes" competing for Britain.

They also will use their roles to encourage greater awareness of Olympic and Paralympic values, the palace said.

The royals join 27 British Olympians from previous Games who were unveiled as 2012 ambassadors by the British Olympic Association earlier this year.

William said he feels honoured to have been chosen and that his entire family is looking forward to the Games. "London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will inspire so many people — particularly the young — to be the best they can be," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THEY KNOW HOW TO MAKE MONEY

60 seconds

▶ David Kaplan

David Kaplan, investigative reporter and author of Yakuza: Japan's criminal underworld

How does the Yakuza make money today?

The last 30 years has seen a steady move toward white-collar crime and legitimate investments like real estate. Back when the Japanese bubble economy took off, property and real estate were going sky-high and the Yakuza's assets increased substantially. Even though the bubble popped, their involvement in financial crimes got much more serious: now they are the top investors in the Japanese economy.

Are they still on the edge despite the recession?

Their business ranges from street-level thugs running local gambling and prostitution to large-scale financial operations. They handle the real economy — they are the ones who collect the money and do the real off-the-book commercial negotiations.

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING SMIRNOFF

ENTERTAINING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

NOW THAT THE COUNTDOWN TO THE FESTIVE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY ON, IT'S TIME TO START MAKING YOUR PARTY-PLANNING LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE

Here are some tips for stress-free holiday entertaining:

SEND INVITATIONS EARLY

There are lots of parties in December, so send your invitations a few weeks before the date so people can fit it into their schedule.

SET A GAME TIME

In the invitation, state a time parameter. Don't say: "Come by anytime after 7 p.m." if you don't want guests to linger past midnight. Instead, be specific: "Join us for wine and cheese from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m."

PLAN YOUR PANTRY

Try to always have a few culinary staples on hand in case people drop in unexpectedly. These can include antipasto, crudités, hummus and other dips, gourmet crackers, a choice of cheeses, savoury jam and a variety of cookies.

BUILD A COCKTAIL BAR

Early in December, buy a collection of spirits such as vodka, gin and white and dark rum so you'll have basic cocktail ingredients at the ready before party time.

DECIDE ON DECOR

In the days leading up to the party, try different holiday decor themes and colours until you find your favourite. You don't have to stick to traditional green, red, silver and gold; any colour combination goes as long as it's consistent.

HOLIDAY CHEER

HOLIDAY SEABREEZE

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No.21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz grapefruit juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your rock glass with cubed ice and pour in the cranberry juice. Shake the Smirnoff® and grapefruit juice together, then strain and float on top of the cranberry. Add the lime wedge and enjoy.

LONG COSMO

1 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
0.5 oz TripleSec
3 oz cranberry juice
2 lime wedges

Fill your martini shaker with ice and pour in all ingredients. Mix, then strain. Squeeze in the lime wedges, stir and enjoy.

MADRAS

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz orange juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your highball glass with cubed ice and pour in the Smirnoff® and the cranberry and orange juices. Stir together. Add your lime wedge and enjoy.

ANTON KUSTERS/ODO YAKUZA TOKYO

Gold-hearted gangsters

In Japan, samurais in suits wield power The Yakuza, Japan's version of the Mafia, is so entwined in society that they help in moments of crisis

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA
@METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Japan's crime syndicates, the Yakuza, are pictured as nine-fingered killers wielding nunchuks, covered with elaborate full-body tattoos. To be more precise, these gangsters can gamble on the financial market better than Wall Street brokers, or deliver aid to populations in need more efficiently than the Red Cross itself.

The Yakuza were reportedly the first to react to Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami last March; in the disaster's immediate aftermath, they dispatched at least 70 trucks loaded with supplies worth more than $500,000, according to Jake Adelstein, a well-known crime reporter in Japan. In fact, they like to think about themselves as "ninkyo dantai," or humanitarian groups.

"They are always in place when a disaster happens," Adelstein tells Metro. "Since Japan is in a hurry to reconstruct, eliminating organized crime elements from reconstruction and waste disposal is simply not possible."

Given their strict code of conduct, forbidding its members from street crimes, prostitution and heists, Yakuza gangsters have traditionally been tolerated by Japanese society.

Recent reports have emerged that financial brokers who helped disgraced electronics group Olympus hide years of investment losses have links to the Yakuza.

For these mobsters, helping the population is partly about living up the code of honour they profess, partly to get a piece of the big business of reconstruction.

Yet like any other entrepreneurial group, they also have been affected by the weak economic climate.

"Obviously with less money around and a stagnant economy, there's less money for them to make. So they have moved also to the financial sector," Adelstein says. "Yakuza gangs invest in emerging stock markets, move money overseas and are involved in large-scale financial crimes. And then, of course, extortion, gambling and drugs are still making the revenues."

Inside the Yakuza

- **There's no one Yakuza.** Japanese mafia is made up of 22 fraternal organizations with 86,000 members. The largest one, Yamaguchi-gumi, employs 40,000 people.
- **Joining the Yakuza.** Wannabes have to pay a fee, often finding the money through violent crimes despite the Yakuza's strict code of conduct. Members cut off some of their fingers as a sign of loyalty.

The man who crossed the Yakuza

"Erase the story ... or we'll erase you. And maybe your family. But we'll do them first so you learn your lesson before you die." American journalist Jake Adelstein was told this by a Yakuza thug sent by the so-called "John Gotti of the Japanese mafia."

Adelsteins's transgression had been to expose one of the most powerful Yakuza bosses, Tadamasa Goto, who became an FBI informant in exchange for a liver transplant in California. Adelstein's best-selling book Tokyo Vice: an American Reporter on the Police Beat in Japan, reveals the darkest underbelly of Japanese society.

"In the U.S. I feel very safe, but I can't move with my kids to Japan as it's still too dangerous," Adelstein says. "I live a migrant-worker existence and I'm under constant surveillance there."

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA

MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Firefighters in Beverly Hills, Calif., look over damage caused by high winds.

Winds blast California

Schools closed, flights diverted, trucks overturned, thousands lose power

Some of the worst winds in years blasted through California Wednesday night, sweeping through canyons, gusting up to 156 km/h, and toppling trees and trucks while knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of people.

An estimated 300,000 customers in Southern California were without electricity Thursday morning.

High winds were also reported elsewhere throughout the U.S. west, including 160 km/h gusts that forced a Utah town to close schools.

"What's driving this is a large, cold low-pressure system that's currently centred over Needles, Calif. The strong winds are wrapping around it," weather service forecaster Andrew Rorke said.

The winds were colder but fiercer than the Santa Ana winds that often hit California in late fall.

"It seems like there's been extensive damage across the county," based on preliminary reports, said Bob Spencer, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

"It was a terrifying ride for me, coming here in pitch dark ... and watching motorists take no notice of lights being out," he said. "What the weather experts are telling us are that these probably are the worst windstorms to hit (the area) in more than a decade."

High winds ripping through Utah overturned several semi-trucks on or near Interstate 15, and 54,000 customers in Utah were without power.

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Consumer report

Canadians slowing their borrowing habits: Report

There are signs that Canadian consumers have slowed down their borrowing this year, after peaking in the fourth quarter of 2010.

A TransUnion analysis released Thursday found that average consumer debt, excluding mortgages, was $25,594 in the third quarter.

That's about where it has been throughout 2011, although up slightly from where it was in the third quarter of 2010.

That means Canadians are increasingly reluctant to add to their lines of credit, consumer and car loans and credit card debt as they face an uncertain economy that's eroding their confidence.

On the mortgage side, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp. said earlier this week that the growth of mortgage loans has slowed down to an average of just under $160,000.

That reflects tougher lending rules imposed by Ottawa and a slowing economy, which has put downward pressure on house prices.

The agency also noted that mortgage insurance bought by homeowners facing high-ratio debts fell by about 10 per cent,

TransUnion is a firm that tracks consumer borrowing through credit cards, lines of credit and auto financing.

In its report Thursday, the financial analysis company said the third-quarter debt total is still about 1.7 per cent higher than in the same 2010 period but notes the pace of increases has slowed as the year has progressed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

eBay eyes holiday shoppers

Popular online retail and auctions site touts QR shopping at temporary pop-up shop in London's trendy Soho district, just in time for Christmas

The news that eBay has set up shop seems like a bizarre, counter-intuitive business strategy. However, the pop-up store located on Dean Street in London's trendy Soho is eBay's first foray into multi-channel shopping, following the likes of Internet giants Amazon, who have tried something similar.

Of course, given that it's only open for five days — from December 1 through 5 — this is basically a perfectly timed publicity stunt, during the busiest period for Christmas shopping. Skepticism aside, the boutique does give less tech-savvy shoppers the opportunity to understand how QR shopping works. In layman terms, shoppers scan the QR barcode with their smartphone, which then takes them through to the eBay site, where purchases are processed. It's that simple. Staff are on hand to help any technophobes out there.

What sets it apart from a traditional store is that one cannot physically purchase anything and there are no ringing tills — nor long lineups.

EBay spokesperson Antonia Pearson says, "It's great to have a physical manifestation of eBay to showcase our products and make people aware that we do sell brand-new packaged gifts — it's not all about bidding." METRO

Purchase power

- 10% of eBay's sales revenue is from mobile commerce.
- 60% of items are brand-new and sold through the Buy It Now system.
- EBay has also collaborated with major stores in both New York and San Francisco.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ EBay's new pop-up store in London.

Angry Birds go nuts for product placement

The Angry Birds have gone nuts. They have also sold out to the Man.

The world's most popular video game app had its first taste of the lucrative world of advertising in September, with a 15-second spot featuring Wonderful Pistachios.

In the ad, a red bird uses a slingshot to turn a green pig into a flying nutcracker.

Now there's an Angry Birds game that takes product placement to new heights.

The Hunt for the Golden Pistachio is about cracking nutshells for profit, besides chasing egg-stealing pigs.

A spokesperson for Finland's Rovio, the creator of Angry Birds, told Mashable.com that this is the first game conceived from inception with the advertiser in mind.

Available at Golden Pistachios' getcracking.com website, Thursday's launch of the new game, optimized for Google's Chrome Internet browser, encouraged downloads with offers of cash and other prizes.

Angry Birds marked 500 million downloads last month. According to Rovio, users rack up 300 million minutes of play time around the world every day.

The Angry Birds franchise has been growing exponentially, with a recently released cookbook, an anticipated Hollywood movie release of Angry Birds Rio early in 2012, and a planned television series.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ An image of the popular video game Angry Birds is displayed on an iPod Touch.

Starbucks opens drive-thrus in U.K.

Starbucks is hitting the road in Britain.

The Seattle-based coffee chain said Thursday that it is planning to open 200 more drive-thru stores in the United Kingdom over the next five years, plus 100 walk-in ones.

The company opened its first U.K. drive-thru in 2008 in Cardiff in Wales, and currently has nine.

In the United States, it has 2,500 drive-thru stores.

Half of the new U.K. drive-thru units will be opened in partnership with Euro Garages, a company based in northern England which operates service stations.

Starbucks says it expects to hire 5,000 people at the new stores.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BP sells natural-gas unit to U.S. firm

BP PLC is selling its Canadian natural-gas liquids business for nearly $1.7 billion US but remains a major player in the Canadian oilpatch with interests in oilsands and significant other exploration businesses.

The buyer of the liquids business is Plains Midstream Canada, a subsidiary of Plain All American Pipeline, a U.S. company based in Texas.

The purchase price is $1.67 billion US, the British-owned energy giant said early Thursday.

The business being sold is involved in extracting, processing and wholesaling natural-gas liquids across Canada and in the midwestern United States. It owns or has rights to 4,000 kilometres of pipeline system

BP said Thursday that about 450 employees would be moving to the new owner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LET'S GET PHYSICAL, OR NOT ...

THE METRO LIST

MIKE BENHAIM
METRO

1 Fan-tastic: After a long game of "chicken," the NBA finally carved out a deal that barely anyone understands. My thoughts: You're a muscular six-foot-nine man making over $5 million for putting a ball in a 10-foot hoop. Please, just put on your free socks and sneakers, do your job, and maybe one day, you too can marry a Kardashian. Thanks.

2 Costly Cancon: Our beloved national broadcaster faces criticism once again. The Federal Court of Appeal ruled in favour of budget transparency, but CBC prez Hubert Lacroix still wants his annual $1.1-billion government subsidy. Lacroix says the money is necessary to maintain vital Canadian content like Hockey Night in Canada, local news and election night coverage. I say, "How much for just the hockey?"

3 Free health care?: A recent news story about exorbitant hospital parking fees quoted the Canada Health Act, which states that "Canadians should have access to health care without financial or other barriers." A moderate example is North York General Hospital in Toronto, where a day pass costs $23. It is not unusual for patients with complicated illnesses to be there for a month, which is $700. Then again, drug shortages, disgruntled personnel, and sub-par food ensure that they probably won't last that long anyway.

4 High anxiety: A study out of Cardiff University in Wales found that children with a high IQ at age 5-10 were more likely to experiment with drugs as adults. Dr. James White speculates that smarter people are simply more open to new experiences. My theory is that drug addicts in their 30s are more likely to lie about having a high IQ as a child.

5 Pop history: If you are turning 30 this week, the No. 1 song when you were born, which you were likely exposed to while in the womb, was Let's Get Physical by Olivia Newton-John. I just thought that might shed some light in therapy.

6 Great ones: Wayne Gretzky supposedly demanded 22-year-old daughter Paulina shut down her Twitter account because he found her photos to be distasteful. Even Gretzky admits to having looked at risqué photos of hot women before but maintains that none of them was anyone's daughter.

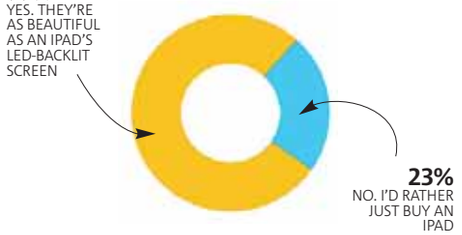
7 True story: On this day in 1969, Cindy Birdsong of the Supremes was kidnapped at knifepoint by a maintenance man in her building. She later escaped unharmed by jumping out of his moving car on the San Diego freeway. Wow! And people thought Diana Ross was special.

8 Extreme couponing: I suffer from "chronic buyer's remorse" as a result of family members who are always giddy with tales of their web-found bargains. I ignore emails from "deal"sites because I fail to see the use in an automatic toilet flusher, but someone informed me of a site that aggregates and sends you just one email containing only items you actually want. It's called Dealfart.com. Kudos to them for a name that pretty much sums it up.

More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you pay the equivalent of an iPad to save a polar bear?



Local tweets

- **@Movember Ottawa:** Canada is officially the top country for #movember with $36,742,456 raised so far and more coming in daily! Final totals in early 2012.
- **@MarkMausz:** When you spend weeks looking for a phone, and then find it but turn it down because it's not white, you look stupid. There, I said it.
- **@AndrewDubeau15:** I hate the mornings when you wake up and realize all the s--t you have to do today. #bringonthebreak
- **@samreiss_:** Mackenzie Richardson stewed as Jamal instructed the pedi-cab. "Play it Again Sports. downtown, and step on it. I need skates." #cflwives
- **@nntyler:** In french class and no one is here, not even the teacher?
- **@kimalexliz:** @TripleHeart-beat my pet monster, he's a monster of a friend YUM!

MARK WANNER/ST LOUIS ZOO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Daily Zoom

Raise a little hell

Endangered

In this photo provided by the St. Louis Zoo, an Ozark hellbender is shown developing in an egg.

- The rare Ozark hellbender, an endangered amphibian found only in a few Missouri and Arkansas counties, has been successfully bred in captivity for the first time, offering new hope for the animal's survival, scientists said.
- For 45 to 60 days after hatching, the tiny larvae will retain their yolk sack for nutrients and move very little. They eventually lose their external gills by the time they reach 1.5 to two years of age.

Hellbender not the worst moniker

Ozark hellbenders shown just after hatching. Also known by the colloquial names of "snot otter" and "old lasagna sides," hellbenders can grow to be two feet at five to eight years of age, the zoo said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

600

An Ozark hellbender at two weeks old. The zoo says rivers in south-central Missouri and northern Arkansas once supported up to 8,000 hellbenders. Today fewer than 600 exist in the world.

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No need for a Silent Night

With these choices for the musical enthusiast on your gift list From Lady Gaga to Alvin And The Chipmunks

KEITH CARMAN
FOR METRO

Rounding up a year's worth of extraordinary music is never an easy undertaking. With seemingly as many genres sprouting up as there are grains of sand in the Sahara, something is surely to be missed.

Tougher still? Picking out one of those gems for the music enthusiast on our gift list. Paring down the style only seems to open up a Pandora's box of who's who, who's hot and who's not.

In an effort to provide clarity, simplicity and a defibrillator to your ego, try a few of these tested, respected and occasionally obvious albums from the past few months or slated to be released just prior to the holidays.

Pop freaks know how much of a marvel Lady Gaga's Born This Way (Interscope) was upon its release earlier this year. For those who might already own it, however, check out Born This Way: The Remix, an unsubtle re-imagining of that explosive affair.

On a more soulful level, anticipation for chanteuse Rhianna's sixth work Talk That Talk (Def Jam) has been stirring heavily alongside the likes of Mary J. Blige's 10th full-length My Life II — The Journey Continues (Act 1) (Geffen), both to be issued in standard and deluxe editions. For traditionalists, well, they may be getting long in the tooth, but as latest venture Hot Sauce Committee Part Two (Capitol) asserts, New York hip-hop heroes The Beastie Boys still hold their own.

If spirited lighter fare is of the essence, try The 30th Annual John Lennon Tribute, Live From the Beacon Theatre, NYC (Theatre Within), a gala featuring the likes of Patti Smith, Jackson Browne, Taj Mahal, Aimee Mann, Shelby Lynne, Martin Sexton, Bettye LaVette, Joan Osborne, Keb' Mo' and more celebrating the life of a rock legend via his songs.

Not to be outdone, folk-infused poetic punk Frank Turner's England Keep My Bones (Epitaph) is easily one of the most rousing and passionate yet down-to-earth albums you probably haven't heard this year. Woody Guthrie would be proud. Similarly, on The King Is Dead (Rough Trade), folk lovers The Decemberists are surprisingly smooth.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

❄ Foo Fighters' Wasting Light would make a great gift for the rock fan on your list.

Rock fan in the crew? One could do far worse than to grab them a copy of Foo Fighters' gripping Wasting Light (Roswell), their seventh album overall and most comprehensive in years. For something less aggressive, Arctic Monkeys' Suck It And See (Domino) has been heralded as a champion affair.

For the classical fanatic, Naxos Of Canada is set to release a bevy of box sets featuring everything from jazz and instrumentals to operas and ballets. Formats range from separate collections to complete editions of Beethoven, Vivaldi, Rachmaninoff, Chopin and more.

If metal is the name of the game, as has become standard fare over their quarter-century (and then some) rivalry, heavy stalwarts Megadeth and Metallica have both issued fresh material just in time. Sating diehard fans of brain-bashing drums and buzz saw guitar riffs, the former's Th1rt3en (Roadrunner) runs exactly as planned. Reaching into more esoteric territory, Metallica opt to work with oddball rocker Lou Reed on elongated affair Lulu (Warner/Vertigo).

Finally, just because they are still kicking after so many decades, to thrill the young audiophile — or torment their parents — consider Alvin And The Chipmunks' Chipwrecked: Music From The Motion Picture featuring those iconic hyperactive rodents at their most ... well, whatever it is that rodents are.

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Jingle Bells and everything in between

Take a listen to these diverse festive music selections, some old, some new from Justin Bieber to The Muppets

KEITH CARMAN
FOR METRO

Lists, frantic shopping, bills, wrapping, entertaining. Sometimes it's tough to truly get into the holiday spirit.

That's where the right music comes into play and this season there is plenty of it.

Vying to get us into the festive mood, a host of musicians have worked diligently through the fall to offer their unique takes on everything from original tunes to favourite standards in such diverse genres as pop, jazz and even heavy metal for this coming yule. A few options to get you glowing:

Meaghan Smith
It Snowed
Warner

Having hit shelves as of Nov. 1, Juno Award winner Meaghan Smith's latest holiday bundle offers a fresh take on traditionals such as Baby It's Cold Outside with fellow Canuck artist Buck 65, as well as original ditties including Christmas Kiss. Available in both standard and a deluxe package bolstered by an autographed lithograph and exclusive acoustic tracks, It Snowed is a delightfully smooth piece of holiday pop.

Justin Bieber
Under The Mistletoe
Island/Universal

This teen idol may be having some kiss-and-tell issues in his daily life but when it comes to inaugural seasonal album Under The Mistletoe, the boy wonder simply can't be touched. Also issued Nov. 1, the 11-track affair (15 in the deluxe version) immediately snagged top spot on North American charts. Featuring both classics (Silent Night, Santa Claus Is Coming To Town) and some fresh material, it's sure to make a tween's eyes twinkle.

David Ian
Vintage Christmas
Prescott Records (Naxos of Canada)

As even his own publicist relates, "How does an ear-splitting, note-shredding rock guitarist who leaps off amps in concert end up releasing an album of mellow, jazz-oriented Christmas songs?" It doesn't really matter when Vintage Christmas unfolds. Toronto-based Grammy-nominated rocker Ian knows his way around both a fretboard and a swinging rendition of staples Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. Jumpin' jazz takes on traditional tunes? Count us in.

Various Artists
The Muppets: A Green And Red Christmas
Universal

Yes, it's a re-release of their infamous 2006 effort, but when fortified by new tracks finding Gonzo and Fozzie singing I Wish I Could Be Santa Claus, as well as the entire crew aided by Andrea Bocelli on Jingle Bells, who can resist?

Black Label Society
Glorious Christmas Songs That Will Make Your Black Label Heart Feel Good
eOne

While metal heads were somewhat late to the holiday table, the past few years have seen them more than make up for it. Serving up his own tray of tasty thematic alloy, Zakk Wylde's EP has a title longer than its run time. Still, hearing him belt out I'll Be Home For Christmas, O Little Town Of Bethlehem and Wonderful World in his inimitable style will put any brazen headbanger in a buoyant bent.

PETER KRAMER/NBC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

❄ **Singer Justin Bieber performs on the Today show last month in New York.**

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Utility Down Coat, $228, available at RW&CO, rw-co.com.

Tech Gloves Weekender, $40, available at The Bay, thebay.com

Wool Coat With Buckle Collar, $198, available at RW&CO, rw-co.com.

Ambler Velo Beanie, $29, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.

Men's Bishop Peak Chukka, $170, available at Teva, teva.com.

The Masters Black Overboot, $169, available at The Bay, thebay.com.

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You will if you receive one of these gift ideas for the audiophile in your life MP3's, headphones, gadgets

MIKE YAWNEY
FOR METRO

Whether you are listening to tunes in the comfort of your home or on public transit through headphones, music can help anyone get into the holiday spirit.

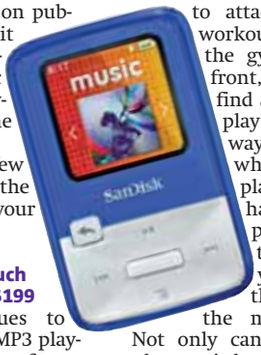
Here are a few gift ideas for the audiophile in your life.

Apple iPod Touch — starting at $199

Apple continues to dominate the MP3 player market. Year after year the iPod Touch is the best-selling MP3 player. There is a reason for that. The device is well-designed with a large touchscreen, which not only plays music but hundreds of thousands of apps and games. It's like an iPhone … minus the phone!

Sony A Series Walkman — $199

A 2.8-inch touchscreen is your window to the world of music. Not sure of the lyrics to your favourite song? The A series Walkman lets you upload lyric files that will display in sync with the music. You can also play video files, display photos, listen to FM radio and record personal notes.



SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip — starting at $49.99

A simple MP3 player loaded with features. The Sansa Clip Zip gets its name from the clip on the back, which makes it easy to attach to your workout clothes at the gym. On the front, you will find a colour display so you always know what song is playing. It also has very simple controls to guide you through the menus. Not only can you play music but the Sansa Clip Zip also has a built-in FM radio, support for audiobooks and podcasts, a voice recorder and a stopwatch. Great price for such a feature-laden device.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre — $329

Two big names come together in one set of on-ear headphones. Monster (known for high-end audio/video cables) and Dr. Dre have teamed up to bring these high-definition headphones to market. Known for their superior sound quality, these Beats headphones have a unique trifold design to ensure they fold for easy storage when not in use. They also feature Cloudtalk technology for hands-free calling!

SkunkJuice Earbuds — $35.99

Funny name but a great idea! These earbuds are designed for sharing music. Patented magnetic connection technology allows up to four sets of SkunkJuice earbuds to connect together into a single audio input on an MP3 player. No more sharing earbuds! The perfect gift for teens.

From top: Apple iPod Touch, starting at $199, SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip, middle, starting at $49.99, and Pioneer X-SMC3, right, $369.99.

Pioneer X-SMC3 — $369.99

Why keep the music bottled up! Spread some sound around your home. The Pioneer X-SMC3 will do just that. This high-end music system sounds amazing, pumping out some decent bass. Wirelessly stream music from your iOS device via Airplay, or connect your favourite MP3 player with a cable. Since the system is connected to your home network you can listen to thousands of Internet radio stations. You can also stream music via Bluetooth with an optional adapter.

iHome iD85 — $139.99

It's always easier to wake up to the sound of music. Dock your iPhone, iPod or iPad to the iD85 and let it recharge overnight as you catch some Z's. The dock features dual alarms so two people can rely on the device for their wake-up call. And for all you lazybones out there, you can automatically sync the clock with the time on your iPhone, iPod or iPad with the press of a button so your clock will never flash 12:00 again!

Ion TapeExpress USB Cassette Player — $59.99

Today's younger generation will never know the magic of a mixed tape, but if you are still having problems parting with those old dusty cassettes, this gadget is for you. Place your cassettes inside the TapeExpress USB Cassette Player, hit play and watch as the songs magically get transformed into MP3s on your computer. Works with both normal and chrome tapes.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre, $329, far left, Sony A Series Walkman, $199, middle, and Ion Tape Express USB Cassette Player, $59.99, left.

iHome iD85, $139.99, and SkunkJuice Earbuds, $35.99, below.

SMART GIFT GIVING

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO BUY A MOBILE PHONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER

SIZE MATTERS

Hold the phone in your hands; how heavy is it? Put the phone in your pocket or in your purse; how bulky is it? Mobile phone experts call this the "form factor," and there is some value in considering whether the phone is the right shape for your needs. You'll also want to look at the screen size, along with other things such as whether it has a QWERTY keyboard or a touchscreen, or both.

Nokia E73

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

How easy is it to take a photo? Do you have to load a separate camera app, or can you just press a button to take a picture? Does the camera have a flash, like Mobilicity's Nokia E73? Does it shoot video, and if it does, is it in HD, like the BlackBerry Torch 9810? Some smartphones even have front-facing cameras, like the HTC Panache, which allows you to record a video of yourself and take self-portraits.

HTC Panache

PLATFORM AND APPS

What OS does the phone run on, and are there any apps that are exclusive to it? Take BlackBerry phones and their acclaimed BlackBerry Messenger app. It's one of the most popular messaging platforms around. And when it comes to accessing thousands of other cool apps and games, there's nothing like Android smartphones, like the Nexus S. With apps that do everything from monitoring your fitness routine to tracking your expenses, smartphones are quickly turning into virtual personal assistants!

FEATURES

What does this phone have that others don't? For example, the HTC Panache 4G offers many unique features, based on the HTC Sense user interface, including allowing users to juggle multiple email accounts with colour-coding, and streaming contacts' social network status and updates alongside their photos when they call or text. The Panache also allows users to instantly silence the phone ringer with a quick flip of the device.

Nexus S

IT'S A MATCH

WHO'S ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST THIS YEAR?

For the latest and greatest affordable mobile phones and smartphones without contracts or tabs, check out these cool picks from Mobilicity.

THE NEWBIE

For someone who is not too technically inclined, a basic mobile phone such as the LG Wink, which is uncomplicated yet sleek and stylish, would be a great fit. It has a two-inch screen, camera, MP3 player and music player, and stereo Bluetooth Connectivity. Like most mobile phones, it also has a rechargeable battery and charger. ***Sale price, $49.99***

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

For the person who wants to be connected to everyone and everything all the time, Mobilicity recommends the BlackBerry Curve 9360 smartphone. A classic BlackBerry, the slim phone features a QWERTY keyboard, 5.0 megapixel camera, WiFi connectivity and GPS navigation. It has a fast browser and is great for web-based video and gaming. ***Regular price, $299.99***

THE GADGET LOVER

The HTC Panache 4G is suitable for people who love gadgets and a phone with the latest and greatest features. It has a portable Wi-Fi hotspot, as well as an interactive camera and GPS navigation with turn by turn directions. There is a 3.8-inch touchscreen. And, you can erase the phone contents if the mobile phone is lost. ***Exclusive to Mobilicity, sale price, $299.99***

THE TEENAGER

If your teen has been bugging you for a smartphone, and you're crunched for cash, take a look at the Nokia 500. Emails as well as updates from Facebook and Twitter arrive 24/7 on the 3.2-inch full touchscreen. The phone has a fast processor and WiFi, meaning everything will run fast and smoothly whether browsing the web or playing games. ***Regular price, $169.99***

WRAP UP GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL YEAR ROUND

Mobilicity provides a range of products that make great gifts any time of the year. Here are a few examples.

BIRTHDAYS

Give the gift that keeps on giving — the Nexus S provides access to thousands of apps. And with Mobilicity's unlimited data, it's easy and affordable to browse the web, watch videos and play games.

VALENTINE'S DAY

You'll love the new BlackBerry Bold 9900. It comes with a QWERTY keyboard, so you can text and email your sweetheart quickly, and to your heart's content.

ANNIVERSARY

Marriage is a partnership; what better way to celebrate than with matching smartphones? Regardless of whether you like a touchscreen or a full QWERTY keyboard, the BlackBerry Torch 9810 will have both of you covered.

SIGNS IT'S TIME FOR A NEW PHONE

1. If co-workers email you photos from the office holiday party, and you have time to make yourself a coffee before they load, it's time for a new phone with a beefier processor. The Nexus S from Mobilicity has a 1GHz processor, which means you can download those photos, post them to Facebook, and tweet about the party, all before your coffee brews. And with Mobilicity's unlimited data, you can post and tweet as much as you want.

2. If you only have enough memory to store four songs on your phone, it may be time for a new phone. Mobilicity's LG Wink comes with an MP3 player, and you can upgrade the memory to 16GB.

3. If the numbers and letters on your keypad are starting to fade, why not upgrade to something with a touchscreen instead? Mobilicity's Samsung Galaxy Mini features a 3.14-inch touchscreen, and has a 3 megapixel camera and camcorder.

Treasures for your favourite cook

EMILY RICHARDS
FOR METRO

All I want for Christmas is lots of goodies for my kitchen! OK, maybe not all for me, but certainly to give as gifts to friends.

I often get asked what should I have in my kitchen? Well, here are some great tools for the kitchen that are not only great to give but perfect to receive. So if you haven't started your list yet, I suggest you add a few, if not all, of these great ideas.

You can pick and choose or create a "basket" to give this holiday season that is themed for the kitchen. With a little thought and some strong shopping you will receive or give the best kitchen gifts this season.

❄ Seasonal napkins, skewers, bamboo forks and small serving dishes work well for appetizer parties.

❄ Buy one or buy all these for the food lover on your gift list. Kitchen tools include a chef's knife, silicone spatula, zester/grater, whisk, measuring spoons, dry measuring cups and tongs. A Cuisinart waffle maker, below left, and a collapsible popcorn maker, below, from Dolce.

❄ Buy a brie baker and spreader for a simple gift for the person who enjoys cheese.

❄ A rolling pin, cookie cutters, measuring cups, measuring spoons, zester/grater, and silicone spatula are perfect gifts for the baker on your list.

Kitchen tools to give and receive

This selection can make a lot of people happy, so buy one or buy them all. Truly useful to make cooking a delight! Chef's knife, silicone spatula, Microplane zester/grater, whisk, measuring spoons and dry measuring cups, and tongs.

For the cheese lover

Look for a small or large brie baker and spreader for a simple straightforward gift and perhaps include a brie for a get-together. For other cheeses be sure to include a small cheese board and cheese knife set.

For the baker

Let your imagination grab you! Pick up a bowl and fill it with useful kitchen tools like a rolling pin, cookie cutters, dry measuring cups, measuring spoons, zester/grater and silicone spatula

For the appetizer parties

Serving things up in small bites is very popular so why not create a few gifts that can help a hostess out? Look for seasonal napkins, skewers of all shapes and sizes, bamboo forks, small serving dishes and bowls, and tasting spoons

True essentials

There are a few simple tools you shouldn't be without to make cooking enjoyable and fun. A chef's knife will help you chop and dice your way through incredible recipes, the cutting board will protect your knife and your counters, dry measuring cups and spoons will make sure you have the right amounts you need and good salt will help it all be seasoned to perfection.

Bigger items for kitchen gadget lovers

This is where you can look at small appliances with eyes wide open and have some fun.

If you enjoy waffles from restaurants you can recreate the tasty morning dish by making your own at home with a waffle maker. Or for movie buffs, check out a lively popcorn maker that will get your guests watching the popcorn and not the movie. And for pizza lovers, be sure to sneak in a colourful nonstick pizza stone to keep pizza warm right at the table, too

Whether you are looking for yourself or for friends and family, kitchen tools are an important part of the home and make cooking a truly fun and memorable experience.

So be sure to check out your local cookware shops and specialty food stores for some treasures you are sure to find this holiday season. I would love if Santa stuffed a few in my stocking this year.

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Ease the stress with a simple brunch

EMILY RICHARDS
FOR METRO

PIXLAND/THINKSTOCK

❄ Enjoy company over the holidays by making some simple dishes ahead of time.

During the holidays we hustle and bustle trying to get shopping done, visiting friends and family, going to festive parties and having guests over to our homes.

All this can become daunting, especially close to the big days of Christmas or new years.

An easy way to bring friends together is to enjoy their company for a brunch during this busy time. You can invite them to come over and serve up a delicious, potluck-style brunch.

While you make a few delectable dishes, get your guests to bring the accompaniments for the meal. Brunch is perfect for this because you can have a great variety of dishes. Including breakfast dishes like eggs and oatmeal is classic, but you can stretch it over to include tasty lunch items that are a bit heavier and are always big hits with guests.

Making dishes ahead is important to keep your sanity so be sure to look for recipes that can be frozen or made overnight so you can have a simple morning of bliss and togetherness while guests are enjoying your company.

This is also something we tend to forget when we wake up Christmas morning. With all the excitement of what Santa brought and unwrapping presents we may enjoy a cup of coffee, or four, but a little nibble is an important part of the morning.

Many have their favourite tried and true recipes for that morning, but these recipes just might make it to your kitchen this year. You can make them both ahead and just bake them in the oven while presents are being enjoyed or even if guests are arriving.

Many of us think about Christmas dinner and what we are going to serve, so it's nice to sit back and enjoy what you might like to have for breakfast or brunch.

This year, try to include some ease to your holiday by planning ahead and relaxing with a casual holiday brunch in which everyone can share.

Turkey and Cranberry Strata

Strata is a dish that has layers of bread with an egg custard. It is a great make-ahead dish for entertaining. In this strata, croissants are the bread of choice and it's a perfect match to leftover turkey.

Ingredients:

- 6 croissants
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp (2 ml) pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) whole berry cranberry sauce
- 3 cups (750 ml) chopped cooked turkey
- 2½ cups (625 ml) milk
- 5 eggs
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh sage or 1 tbsp (15 ml) crumbled dried sage
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) salt

Preparation:

1 Slice croissants in half horizontally and spread with mustard. Sprinkle with half of the pepper. Spread bottom half of croissants with cranberry sauce and top with turkey. Place top half of croissants over turkey. Place filled croissants into a large 13 x 9 inch (3 L) casserole dish, overlapping slightly. Set aside.

2 In large bowl, whisk together milk, eggs, garlic, sage, salt and remaining pepper. Pour over croissants to cover. Wrap with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or up to 24 hours. Unwrap and press croissants down into egg mixture. Bake in 375 F (190 C) oven for 45 to 60 minutes or until golden and knife inserted in centre comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

TIP: You could substitute 12 slices challah or egg bread for the croissants.

Cranberry Orange Biscuit Buns

Ingredients:

- 2½ cups (625 ml) all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup (60 ml) chopped fresh cranberries
- ¼ cup (60 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) baking powder
- 2 tsp (10 ml) grated orange rind
- Pinch salt
- ¾ cup (175 ml) butter, cubed
- ⅓ cup (75 ml) plus 2 tbsp (30 ml) sour cream
- ¾ cup (175 ml) whole berry cranberry sauce or fruit jam
- Coarse sugar (optional)

Icing:

- ⅓ cup (75 ml) icing sugar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) orange juice

Preparation:

1 In large bowl, combine flour, cranberries, sugar, baking powder, orange rind and salt. Using pastry blender or fingertips cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add sour cream and bring together with fork. Using hands, bring dough together to form slightly sticky dough.

2 On lightly floured surface, knead dough gently about 10 times. Roll out dough to 16 x 12 inch (40 cm x 30 cm) rectangle. Spread evenly with cranberry sauce, leaving a 2-inch (5 cm) space at one long end. Start

rolling up jelly roll style towards long end with space and pinch edge to seal.

3 Slice into 12 pieces and place in 9-inch (23 cm) parchment paper-lined spring form pan with removable bottom. Cover well and freeze for up to 2 weeks. Remove from freezer and let thaw in refrigerator overnight.

4 Sprinkle top with coarse sugar, if using and bake in 400 F (200 C) oven for about 35 minutes or until golden brown and firm. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

5 Icing: Meanwhile, in bowl stir together icing sugar and water. Drizzle over buns before serving. Makes 12 biscuits.

FREEZER STORAGE: Wrap biscuits and pan with plastic wrap and then a layer of heavy duty foil for the freezer. Be sure to not put anything heavy on top of it in the freezer or the pinwheels will get crushed.

On the naughty list

Satin Slip, $42, and Long Robe, $59.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Cotton Lingerie Demi, $32.50, and Bikini, $8.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Holiday Novelty Panties, $8.50-$16.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Mrs. Claus Babydoll Set $49.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Satin bow chemise, $29.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Satin Eye Mask, $7.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Very Sexy Lace Push-up, $52, and Garterskirt, $34.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victorias secret.com.

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Animated Plush Merry Monster, $14.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

HomeSense Newsprint Plush Toys, $14.99-$16.99, available at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Plush ChrisMoose, $11.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Reindeer Rattle, $12, available at available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Endless Hearts Teddy, $23, left, and Erik in Nordic Sweater from Happy Feet Two, $39.99. For Canadian store listings, visit buildabear.ca.

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Three big looks for tree ornaments

KARL LOHNES
FOR METRO

Each year we see new looks for holiday décor and, often, an evolution from Christmases past. There are three looks that are guaranteed to be included in holiday décor each year: The ever popular Country Style; the illustrious Upscale Look; and the daring Trendy Colours.

RESTORATION HARDWARE PHOTO

CANADIAN TIRE PHOTO

❄ Country is a popular decorating style during the holidays, like this Homespun example. Left, ornaments of royal colours are trending this year.

Country

This is by far one of the most popular styles of decorating and always the bestseller around the holidays. Last year's country Christmas look was very outdoorsy — birch bark birds, twig nests, pine cones and reindeer motifs were all the rage.

This year, we go inside the house and the look is called Homespun. Knitting, baking and sewing motifs help to define this décor theme: Barbie-sized knit sweaters, scarves and hat ornaments that hang on the tree; decorated gingerbread cookies; textured knit holiday ball ornaments; little quilted gingham house shapes adorned with wooden buttons make for great DIY-er inspired tree ornaments.

Upscale

There is always a formal style of decorating that is popular for the holidays. Last year was the heavily themed Venetian Ball: Party masks, peacocks, jesters and sparkles took the scene. This year we are seeing that look settling down into a simple colour scheme of purple, gold and crystal. Lots of purple hearts, gold harps, over-scaled diamonds and strung crystal ropes.

Isn't it funny that there was a royal wedding this year and, voila!, ornaments of royal colours and diamonds appears!

Trendy

Last year introduced fun Grinch-inspired colours and shapes; wonky-looking lime trees, sparkly turquoise and pink balls and psychedelic striped, curly-toed stockings.

This year, the Grinch colours continue, but are toned down to solid-coloured shapes, polka dots and three colours; lime, turquoise and red. This look would show very well on an all-white tree and adds a retro '60s fun feel to the holidays.

Next year: Look for these two colours to darken up significantly; lime green will turn to dark advocado and turquoise will go to teal; mix these next colours with graphite grey and bronze for a rich, high-end look. Goodbye to Grinch next year …

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Subtle holiday touches for your home

KARL LOHNES
FOR METRO

Want to add a festive touch to your house without going overboard too early? Try implementing basic elements slowly; creating a buildup to Christmas rather than unleashing everything at once.

Here are a few simple ideas to get you prepped for the upcoming holidays.

Simple greens

The basis to most holiday décor is fresh greens, flowers and, of course, a tree. Layer your holiday décor slowly by incorporating artificial greens early into the season. Good looking artificial greens are a great investment as they last the entire holiday season without care. Pottery Barn's pre-lit boxwood garland (runs on a battery), $90, can be swaged over the door entrance or made into two fresh-looking wreaths. Keep the look simple; then add holiday ornaments closer to the holidays to create a more festive mood.

A tall modern vase filled with red dogwood branches, shiny salal leaves or dried pine cones is a way to bring a touch of nature inside without overloading the house with festivities.

Holiday lights

Small, white twinkle lights are a great way to add sparkle and shine to a room and you don't have to only use them on a tree; try wrapping LED lights around large grapevine balls (purchased at craft stores) and fill an unused fireplace; string your lights around a large foyer mirror.

Got some vintage coloured string lights? Fill a large crystal bowl with them and plug in for a vintage-inspired centrepiece.

Scent it up

Creating a subtle holiday environment is easy when you create scents of the season. Look for scents from nature like Crabtree & Evelyn's Windsor Forest candle, $30, which offers up the sweet smell of an English forest.

If you have an artificial tree then the tree scent is a necessity.

Guest ready

Got a guest room? Get it ready by freshening up bed and bath linens, add a mattress topper for some extra comfort and add a tabletop Christmas tree for holiday ambience.

Speaking of having people over, it's time to stock your bar with the season's newest and best; try the new hazelnut flavoured Baileys — it's flavoured with natural aromatics and does not include traces of nuts. Flavouring your own vodka is fun, too; add dried cranberries and lemon rind to plain vodka; seal and store in a dry, cool place for at least two weeks.

Look to dollar stores for purchasing extra glassware for entertaining; glass is classy, plastic is not.

❄ Pottery Barn's pre-lit boxwood garland. Crabtree & Evelyn's Windsor Forest candle, above.

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Hazeldean Mall
2446 Bank Street, Unit 103

Authorized Dealers

Cellular X Zone:
Billingsbridge Mall
Rocknet Telecom:
1020 St. Laurent Blvd, Unit 12
Bullo Wireless:
1414 Walkley Rd
IGO Cyber House Inc:
223 Bank St
Joe Mobile Tech:
780 Baseline Rd, Unit 22
RB Computing:
235 Stafford Rd W, Unit 101

Synopsis

So many movies were released last weekend for American Thanksgiving that it seems like there weren't any left for this week. With only limited new films in theatres, the Reel Guys take a look at what's at the multiplex already that could take home Oscar gold.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Could Meryl Streep take home another Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher?

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Go ask Oscar

Meryl or Michelle, George or Ryan? The Reel Guys make their predictions

Richard: Mark, for me right now, the frontrunner for Best Actress is Michelle Williams. Her take on Marilyn Monroe in My Week with Marilyn is so eerily accurate it transcends mimicry. She really becomes Marilyn. I say right now, because The Iron Lady hasn't hit theatres yet. Word is the only way Williams can beat Meryl Streep playing Margaret Thatcher is if Streep decides not to allow herself to be nominated. Are their any surefire bets for you?

MB: Even with Meryl in the race, Williams will win because Hollywood loooooooooves Marilyn Monroe, and Thatcher is an unsympathetic figure to a liberal community. I think George Clooney could be a lock for The Descendants. It's the most nuanced work he's ever done, and I think there's a feeling it's time he got that statue for his cumulative body of work. Who else might challenge him?

RC: I think Clooney deserves an Oscar for just being Clooney. He's our generation's Cary Grant and I loved that he didn't rely on his usual charm and likability in The Descendants. But how cool would it be if Ryan Gosling gave him a run. He had a great year with three high profile interesting roles to choose from. Me, I'd give it to him for his brilliant, menacing work in Drive.

MB: Brilliant, yes. But he won't win. The movie will be too violent for older academy voters. But I sense a strong contender from the same movie for Best Supporting Actor: Albert Brooks. I love when comedians play bad guys and Brooks was the most memorable baddie of the year.

RC: I would love Albert Brooks to win simply to hear his acceptance speech. If it's anything like his twitter feed it would be hilarious. I would also love to see Hugo have a shot at Best Picture. It's perfect for the Academy. It's a big beautiful movie about the magic of movies. It would be one for the history books; a kid's flick directed by Martin Scorsese as the year's big winner.

MB: The academy is always biased against kid's pictures even if it's one as magical as Hugo. Maybe it will be one of those instances where it won't win for Best Picture but Scorsese will take home the Best Direction award. Everyone would have to admit the direction was nothing short of ravishing.

Stars set to shine at Sundance

Festival films announced, will compete next month

John Krasinski, Helen Hunt, Michael Cera, Amanda Seyfried, Danny Glover and rap star Common are among the stars with movies heading to the Sundance Film Festival.

Films announced Wednesday that will compete for prizes at next month's independent-film showcase include dramas dealing with family crises, such as director Ry Russo-Young's Nobody Walks, with The Office co-star Krasinski and Olivia Thirlby; The End of Love, starring Cera, Seyfried, Shannyn Sossamon and writer-director Mark Webber; and Sheldon Candis' Luv, featuring Glover and Common.

Hunt stars with John Hawkes and William H. Macy in Ben Lewin's The Surrogate, an unusual story about a 36-year-old man who has spent most of his life on an iron lung and now develops a plan to lose his virginity.

They're among 16 films in Sundance's competition for U.S. dramas, whose past winners included eventual Academy Awards nominees Winter's Bone, Precious and Frozen River.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Michael Cera

2 scene

Scene in brief

Movie website EmpireOnline.com is reporting director Frank Miller's planned remake of Mad Max will be a trilogy. Miller is helming the post-apocalyptic Mad Max: Fury Road, the first in the planned series. "We started with Fury Road, but we then started to do a second story and a third," the website quotes Miller's producing partner Doug Mitchell as saying. The original Mad Max starred a young Mel Gibson and hit theatres in 1979 and also spawned two sequels.

METRO

For the latest movie news, features and reviews, scan this code or visit metronews.ca/movies

Finding his balance

Comic Patton Oswalt explores his serious side in Young Adult

Funnyman Patton Oswalt says he dug deep for a serious turn in director Jason Reitman's Up In the Air follow-up Young Adult, spending months with an acting coach to work out the complex emotional baggage of his physically disabled character.

Raves for Oswalt's performance are already pouring in, with the stand-up comic set to be honoured Wednesday with an acting award at the Whistler Film Festival.

Young Adult — which hits theatres Dec. 16 — reunites the Montreal-born Reitman with his Juno screenwriter Diablo Cody, and stars Oscar-winner Charlize Theron as a morally bereft writer of young adult novels.

Oswalt, best known as Spence from The King of Queens, plays a man whose legs were damaged by a brutal high school beating. The self-described acting "neophyte" admits to having had some qualms about the tricky role.

"That's what I was most worried about — that I would kind of fumble some of the transitions between the darkness and then the lightness."
PATTON OSWALT

"Diablo wrote such a good script and such a nuanced script that there were a million ways to steer it in the wrong direction," says Oswalt, whose increasingly diverse credits include HBO Canada's Bored to Death, The Movie Network/Movie Central's United States of Tara and the Adult Swim series The Heart, She Holler.

"Just when I first sat down and read the script I was like, 'Oh boy, I don't want to fumble this.' It's the combination of, 'Oh I'm so thrilled to get offered this,' and 'Oh man, I don't want to mess this up.'"

Oswalt's Matt Freehauf was savagely beaten by jocks as a teen, leaving his legs permanently damaged and forcing him to walk with a brace. Matt serves as a moral compass for Theron's deluded character Mavis Gary, who returns to her hometown looking to relive her glory days and rekindle a romance with her now married exboyfriend, played by A Gifted Man's Patrick Wilson.

Oswalt says he consulted an acting coach and a physical therapist to prepare for the role, and thought a lot about Matt's troubled backstory and how that must have shaped his upbringing.

"And not just the incident that scars him but what he went through to recover from it, which I think probably shaped his personality and worldview just as much as the damage that the attack did," Oswalt says by phone from Los Angeles.

"I just wanted less and less to have to think about so I could be more present in the scenes with Charlize.

"She's a really instinctual actor and I really didn't want to be sitting there with eight other thoughts on my head while she's just rolling with it."

SUBMITTED

▶ Patton Oswalt relished the opportunity to take on a different kind of role.

All that work appears to be paying off.

Several early reviews have singled out Oswalt's performance as a standout, with the Whistler prize seen by some as a precursor to a possible Oscar nomination for supporting actor.

"The whole thing just took me by surprise," Oswalt says of the multiple kudos. "It's extremely gratifying and kind of stupefying at the same time, I don't quite know what to think of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"A FAMILY COMEDY NEVER SHORT ON CHRISTMAS CHEER." Scott Bowles, USA TODAY
"...HILARIOUS, FAST-PACED AND SUPERBLY ENTERTAINING." Bruce DeMara, TORONTO STAR
"★★★★. A NEW CHRISTMAS CLASSIC." Andy Lea, DAILY STAR SUNDAY
SEE THE WORLD PREMIERE OF JUSTIN BIEBER'S NEW VIDEO IN 3D BEFORE THE MOVIE
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS
MOTION PICTURE INCLUDES "SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN" BY JUSTIN BIEBER FROM HIS NEW ALBUM "UNDER THE MISTLETOE" (FEATURING THE NEW SINGLE "MISTLETOE")
COLUMBIA PICTURES AND SONY PICTURES ANIMATION PRESENT AN AARDMAN PRODUCTION "ARTHUR CHRISTMAS" JAMES McAVOY HUGH LAURIE BILL NIGHY JIM BROADBENT IMELDA STAUNTON ASHLEY JENSEN
DIRECTED BY BARRY COOK MUSIC BY HARRY GREGSON-WILLIAMS CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PETER BAYNHAM CO-PRODUCED BY CHRIS JUEN WRITTEN BY PETER BAYNHAM & SARAH SMITH PRODUCED BY PETER LORD DAVID SPROXTON CARLA SHELLEY STEVE PEGRAM
CARTOON, ANIMATION ACTION
Aardman Sony Pictures Animation ArthurChristmas.ca DIRECTED BY SARAH SMITH
NOW PLAYING Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes
IN THEATRES IN 2D, 3D AND real 3D
SONY make.believe

Rolling Stone
"'HUGO' WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY." PETER TRAVERS
HUGO IN 3D
GK films
PG Parental guidance advised SOME SCARY SCENES
HugoMovie.com
NOW PLAYING CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES
IN real 3D, DIGITAL 3D & SELECT 2D THEATRES

Hollywood's silent revolution

There's Oscar buzz over a silent movie for the first time since the 1920s Audio changed everything

ANNE BRODIE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Michel Hazanavicius' The Artist is one of the season's most acclaimed films – a silent black and white fable about a movie matinee idol who fails to make the cut to talkies in 1927 Hollywood.

French actor Jean Dujardin won the Best Actor Palme D'or at Cannes for his portrayal of George Valentin, in which he brings the best of Gene Kelly and Cary Grant to his own inimitable style. Valentin, a victim of the sound revolution, loses everything he has, but unbeknownst to him, a young actress he befriended secretly keeps an eye out for him. It's reminiscent of John Gilbert's story.

Gilbert was one of the silent era's greatest film stars whose career reportedly collapsed with the advent of sound, and whose former lover, Greta Garbo, intervened unsuccessfully to restore his image and career. He died of a heart attack at age 36. It was a tragedy with parallels to The Artist. In many ways it's a Hollywood fable for adults.

The French cast and crew shot in old Hollywood, often in the exact locations of the story. It looks authentic, as though it was made right then and there in 1927, if not for the modern gloss and crisp, high definition. Dujardin was thrilled to step into Tinseltown's history.

"The story was more beautiful for this. It was thrilling to film in the Orpheum on the actual sites, and was extremely motivating, especially they had talks prior to that that we would be filming in Hungary or Romania. So on top of being able to film in Hollywood, the place is extremely special. It's almost a religion to be in a movie in the street there."

Oscar whispers have been loud and clear since The Artist screened at Cannes and Toronto. Dujardin has heard those whispers and is conscious of the love the film has inspired. "It's almost like Michel found the magical formula access code sitting in front of everyone's nose."

SUBMITTED

▶ Jean Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo star in The Artist.

We've been pronouncing Steve Buscemi's name wrong this whole time

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Steve Buscemi. That's pronounced "boo-SEM-i."

NATE JONES
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

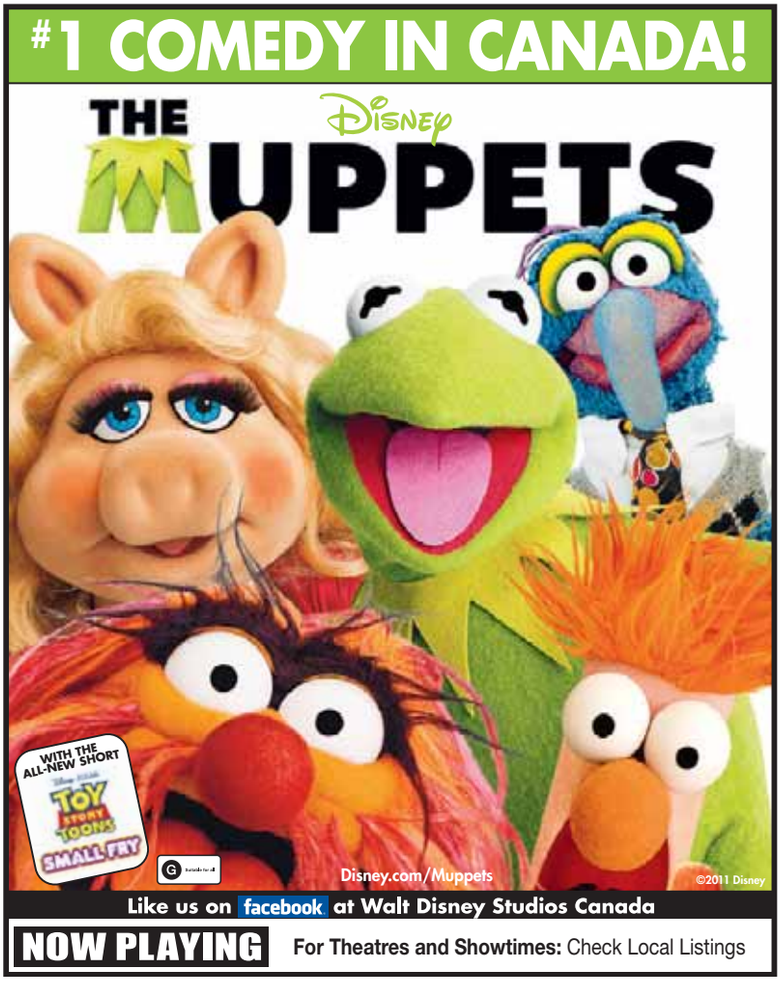
Do you make a habit of watching SNL promos? Of course not — who would want to watch two people nervously stand around trading awkward quips for two interminable minutes?

However, you should watch the promotional clips for this week's episode, hosted by Steve Buscemi, for one simple reason: It turns out we've been pronouncing Buscemi's name wrong for his entire career.

Yes, looks like it's "boo-SEM-i," not "boo-SHEM-i."

We're sorry, Steve. This is so embarrassing!

The actor, who appears in the TV series Boardwalk Empire, has starred in such films as Igor, Fargo and The Big Lebowski.



THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC.2 TO THURS., DEC. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Circumstance (14A) Fri 9:25 Sat 6:55 Sun 1:30-8:35 Mon 9:15 Tue 6:45
From Here to Eternity (PG) Wed 4:30 Thu 6:45
The Guard (14A) Fri 4:45 Sat 2:15
The Ides of March (14A) Sun 3:50 Mon-Tue 4:30
Janis (STC) Wed 7
Take Shelter (STC) Fri 6:55 Sat 4:25-6:55-9:15 Sun 6:05 Mon 6:45 Tue 9:05 Wed 9:10 Thu 4:15
We Were Here (PG) Thu 9:15

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

Atmen (14A) Sat-Sun 9
Komt Een Vrouw Bij de Dokter (STC) Sun 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Thu
O Mistério da Estrada de Sintra (STC) Sat 7
Serzanta Lapina Atgriesanas (STC) Fri 7
Todas las Canciones Hablan de Mi (STC) Fri 9

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Wed
Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (STC) Fri 10:30-11:40-12:50-2 Sat-Sun 1:14-10-11:10-12:55-1:30-2:40-3:50 Thu 4:5-10-5:45-6:55 Fri 11:05-12:15-1:25 Sat-Sun 10:35-12:20-2:05-3:15 Thu 4:35-6:20

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 12:40
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:45-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:20
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri 12:20-3:20-6:45-9:20 Sat 6:45-9:20 Sun 12:20-3:20-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4:20-7:25-10 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:25-10 Wed-Thu 4:20-10
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15
Immortals (18A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:15-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:55
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:35 Sat 7:05-9:35 Sun 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:35
The Muppets (G) Fri 12:50-4-7-9:45 Sat 12:50-4 Sun 12:50-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45 Sat 7-9:45
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:20-9:40
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-6:35-9:10 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:35-9:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30 Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
White Christmas (PG) Wed 7

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

The Descendants (14A) Digital Fri 3:30-6:30-9:25 Digital Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:25 Digital Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:25
Hugo (PG) Fri 3:35-6:35-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:20
J. Edgar (PG) Digital Fri 3:20-6:20-9:10 Digital Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:10 Digital Mon 3:20-6:20-9:10 Digital Tue-Thu 6:20-9:10
The Maiden Danced to Death (STC) Digital Fri 3:40-6:40-9:30 Digital Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Digital Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:30
Margin Call (STC) Digital Fri 3:45-6:45-9:35 Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:35 Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:35
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Digital Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 Digital Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40 Digital Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:40
The Way (STC) Digital Fri 3:25-6:25-9:15 Digital Sat-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:15 Digital Mon 3:25-6:25-9:15 Digital Tue-Thu 3:25

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

2001: A Space Odyssey (STC) Sun 12:45 Wed 9
2010: The Year We Make Contact (STC) Sun 3:30 Thu 9
Gone With the Pope (STC) Fri 11:55
The Help (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 6 Mon-Tue 6:30
Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles (STC) Fri 9:55 Sat-Sun 9 Tue 9:30
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (14A) Sat 11
Sarah's Key (PG) Wed-Thu 6:30
Scrooged (STC) Mon 9:30

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218, familycinema.ca

No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Sun-Thu
The Three Musketeers 3D (PG) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

50/50 (14A) Fri-Sat 12:35-2:40-7:10 Sun 12:35-2:40 Mon-Thu 12:35-2:40-7:10
Anonymous (PG) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:20
Dolphin Tale (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:25-4:40
Footloose (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:15-6:50
The Help (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-3:45-6:30
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Thu 10:20-4:55-9:30
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Sat 9:55-7-9:05 Sun-Mon 9:05 Tue 9:55-7-9:05 Wed 9:05 Thu 9:55-7-9:05 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 9:55-7 Open Captioned Wed 9:55-7
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Wed 1-9:15 Thu 9:15 Thu 1
The Smurfs (G) Fri-Thu 10-12:05-2:15-4:30
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Thu 4:10-9:25

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Arthur Christmas (G) Digital Sat-Sun 2
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Tue 4:45-6:45-9 Wed 4:45 Thu 4:45-6:45-9
The Muppets (G) Digital Fri 4:30-7:15-9:45 Digital Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45 Digital Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Digital Fri 4:15-7-9:35 Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7-9:35 Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:35

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 10:55-1:35-4-7:05-9:45
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-1:20-3:45-6:30-9:15
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:05-1:40-4:15-7:10-9:40
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 10:35-1:25-4:25-7:20-10:05 Wed 1:25-4:25-7:20-10:05 Thu 10:35-1:25-4:25-7:20-10:05
Immortals (18A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-7:45-10:15
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:20-6:50-9:50
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Thu 10:45-1:05-3:25-6:45-9:05
The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 11:1:45-4:20-7:15-10
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:15-1:30-4:35-6:55-9:25
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 11:10-1:55-4:30-6:55-9:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 10:30-10:50-1:10-1:50-4:05-4:40-7:30-9:55-10:15 Sat 10:50-1:50-4:40-7:30-9:55-10:15 Sun-Thu 10:30-10:50-1:10-1:50-4:05-4:40-7:30-9:55-10:15

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Born to Be Wild 3D (STC) Fri 12:55-3 Sat-Sun 10:45-3 Mon 10:45 Tue 3 Wed-Thu 10:45-3
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Sat 8:05 Sun 7:05 Tue 8:05 Thu 8:05
Coraux du Pacifique (STC) Fri 8:05 Wed 8:05
L'Express des Rocheuses (STC) Fri 4-7 Sat-Sun 4 Mon 12:55 Tue 4 Wed 4-7 Thu 12:55-4
Nes Pour Etre Libres 3D (STC) Fri 9:30-10:45 Sat-Sun 12:55 Tue-Wed 12:55
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri 11:50-2-5 Sat 11:50-2-5-7 Sun 11:50-2-5-6 Mon 11:50-2 Tue 10:45-2-5-7 Wed 10:45-2-5 Thu 10:45-2-5-7

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn 3D (STC) Thu 10
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:10-7-9:10 Mon 7 Tue 1-3:10-7-9:10 Wed-Thu 7-9:10
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-6:45-9 Mon 6:45 Tue 12:45-6:45-9 Wed 6:45-9 Thu 6:45
Immortals (STC) Fri-Sun 3:20-9:20
Jack and Jill (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-7:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-7:10 Wed-Thu 7:10
Les petits pieds du bonheur 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3 Tue 3
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Activité paranormale 3 (13+) Fri-Sun 6-8-9:30 Mon-Thu 2-3:30-6:20-7:50
Café de Flore (G) Mon-Thu 3:50-6-8:05
Espions en herbe 4 : Tout le temps du monde (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:35
Footloose (G) Fri-Sun 7:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 12-5-9
Gants d'acier (G) Fri-Sun 3:10-5:25-9:35 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:05-9:20
Histoire de dauphin (G) Fri-Sun 12-2-4-7:20 Mon-Thu 12-2-7:30
Johnny English Reborn (STC) Fri-Sun 5:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 4-5:45-9:30
Les Schtroumpfs (STC) Fri-Sun 12-1:50-3:40-6 Mon-Thu 12
Les Trois mousquetaires (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:55-3:50-7:40 Mon-Thu 12-1:55-7

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Le chat potté 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-6:30-8:45 Mon 6:30-8:45 Tue 12:20-2:45-6:30-8:45 Wed-Thu 6:30-8:45
Harold et Kumar fêtent Noël (STC) Fri 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:45 Sat 7:20-9:45 Sun 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:45 Mon 7:20-9:45 Tue 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:45
Les immortels (STC) Fri-Thu 9:35
Jack et Jill (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:35-7:15-9:25 Mon 7:15-9:25 Tue 1:15-3:35-7:15-9:25 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Rodelinda - Live (STC) Sat 12:30
Mission Noël 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:40 Mon 7:10-9:40 Tue 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:40
Monsieur Lazhar (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:15-7-9:10 Mon 7-9:10 Tue 12:50-3:15-7-9:10 Wed-Thu 7-9:10
Les Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7:05 Mon 7:05 Tue 1-3:30-7:05 Wed-Thu 7:05
Les petits pieds du bonheur 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:05-6:40-9:05 Mon 6:40-9:05 Tue 12:30-3:05-6:40-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:05
La saga Twilight: Révélation 1re partie (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-12:40-3-3:20-6:20-6:50-9-9:30 Mon 6:20-6:50-9-9:30 Tue 12:10-12:40-3-3:20-6:20-6:50-9-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:20-6:50-9-9:30

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Les aventures de Tintin 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 10
Le chat potté (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:25-7:35-9:50 Mon 7:35-9:50 Tue 1:40-4:25-7:35-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:35-9:50
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-7:10-9:50 Mon 7:10-9:50 Tue 12:50-3:35-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50
Hugo (STC) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:25-6:50-9:35 Mon 6:50-9:35 Tue 12:40-3:25-6:50-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:35
Hugo 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-7:05-10:05 Mon 7:05-10:05 Tue 12:55-3:50-7:05-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:05-10:05
Immortals 3D (STC) Fri 1:10-4:15-7:40-10:10 Sat 4:15-7:40-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:15-7:40-10:10 Mon 7:40-10:10 Tue 1:10-4:15-7:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:40-10:10
J. Edgar (G) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:40-9:35 Mon 6:40-9:35 Tue 12:35-3:40-6:40-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:35
Jack and Jill (G) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:35-7:25-9:30 Mon 7:25-9:30 Tue 1:45-4:35-7:25-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:25-9:30
Jack et Jill (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:45-9:55 Mon 7:45-9:55 Tue 1:30-4:20-7:45-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:45-9:55
Mission Noël (G) Fri-Sun 1:25 Tue 1:25
Mission Noël 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:05-6:30-9:05 Mon 6:30-9:05 Tue 4:05-6:30-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:05
Monsieur Lazhar (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:30-6:45-9:10 Mon 6:45-9:10 Tue 1:35-4:30-6:45-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:10
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:55-7:20-9:55 Mon 7:20-9:55 Tue 1:15-3:55-7:20-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:55
Les petits pieds du bonheur 2 (G) Fri-Sun 1:05 Tue 1:05
Les petits pieds du bonheur 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4-6:55-9:20 Mon 6:55-9:20 Tue 4-6:55-9:20 Wed 6:55-9:20 Thu 6:55
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30
La saga Twilight: Révélation 1re partie (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-7-9:45 Mon 7-9:45 Tue 12:30-3:15-7-9:45 Wed-Thu 7-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (G) Fri 12:45-1-3:30-3:45-7:15-7:30-10-10:15 Sat 1-3:45-7:15-7:30-10-10:15 Sun 12:45-1-3:30-3:45-7:15-7:30-10-10:15 Mon 7:15-7:30-10-10:15 Tue 12:45-1-3:30-3:45-7:15-7:30-10-10:15 Wed-Thu 7:15-7:30-10-10:15
Le Vendeur (STC) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:35-9 Mon 6:35-9 Tue 1:20-4:10-6:35-9 Wed-Thu 6:35-9

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Sun 1:10 Mon-Thu 4:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10
Happy Feet Two (PG) Sat-Sun 1:05 Mon-Thu 4:50
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:30
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
The Muppets (G) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:55-4-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:50-7:20-9:45-10:10 Sat 1:30-4:30-6:50-7:20-9:45-10:10 Sun 1:30-3:50-4:30-6:50-7:20-9:45-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-5:10-7:20-7:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

GLOUCESTER

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2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 12:25 Sat 12:25-2:50 Sun 12:25 Mon-Thu 1:15
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 2:50-5:15-7:40-10 Sat 5:15-7:40-10 Sun 2:50-5:15-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:40-10
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 2
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3-5:30 Mon-Thu 4:40
Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 1-4-7-9:30
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:20-8-10:45
In Time (PG) Fri 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15 Sat 7:45-10:15 Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:30
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:40
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Tue 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Wed 5:10-7:50-10:30 Thu 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:35 Mon-Tue 1-3:20-5:40-8:10-10:35 Wed 3:20-5:40-8:10-10:35 Thu 1-3:20-5:40-8:10-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:55-10:10
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 12:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8:05-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:50-8:05-10:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-1:30-3:20-4:15-6:40-7:20-8:10-9:25-10:05-10:45 Mon-Tue 1:05-1:30-3:45-4:15-6:40-7:20-8:10-9:25-10:05-10:45 Wed 1:05-1:30-3:45-4:15-6:40-8:10-9:25-10:05-10:45 Thu 1:05-1:30-3:45-4:15-6:40-7:20-8:10-9:25-10:05-10:45
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 1:35-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:45 Sat 6:10-8:30-10:45 Sun-Thu 1:35-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:45
White Christmas (PG) Wed 7

ORLEANS

EMPIRE THEATRES ORLEANS 6 CINEMAS
3752 Innes Rd., 613-830-4400

Arthur Christmas (G) Digital, Fri-Sun 1:20 Digital, Tue 1:20
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:15
Happy Feet Two (PG) Digital, Fri-Sun 12:20 Digital, Tue 12:20
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15-6:40-9:10
Hugo (PG) Digital, Fri-Sun 12:40 Digital, Mon 4:30 Digital, Tue 12:40 Digital, Wed-Thu 4:30
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:55-9:50 Mon 3:40-6:55-9:50 Tue 12:50-3:40-6:55-9:50 Wed-Thu 3:40-6:55-9:50
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 4:30-7:30-10:10 Mon 7:30-10:10 Tue 4:30-7:30-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:10
Jack and Jill (PG) Digital, Fri-Sun 1:30-3:50-7:20-9:40 Digital, Mon 3:50-7:20-9:40 Digital, Tue 1:30-3:50-7:20-9:40 Digital, Wed-Thu 3:50-7:20-9:40
The Muppets (G) Digital, Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:45 Digital, Mon 4:15-7:05-9:45 Digital, Tue 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:45 Digital, Wed-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:45
Les petits pieds du bonheur 2 (PG) Digital, Fri-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:15 Digital, Mon 3:20-6:15 Digital, Tue 12:15-3:20-6:15 Digital, Wed-Thu 3:20-6:15
Puss in Boots (G) Digital, Fri-Sun 1:10-4:05-6:20-9 Digital, Mon 4:05-6:20-9 Digital, Tue 1:10-4:05-6:20-9 Digital, Wed-Thu 4:05-6:20-9
Tower Heist (PG) Digital, Fri-Thu 9:05
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Digital, Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Digital, Mon 4-7-10 Digital, Tue 1-4-7-10 Digital, Wed-Thu 4-7-10 Digital, Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Digital, Mon 3:30-6:30-9:30 Digital, Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Digital, Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30

KANATA

KANATA 24
801 Earl Grey Dr., 613-599-1200

Arthur Christmas (G) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:20-1:45-4:10-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:35-10
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30
The Descendants (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:30-11-1:10-1:40-3:50-4:20-6:45-7:15-9:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:20-5:05-7:15-8:15-9:55
Desi Boyz (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:35-1:30-4:25-7:20-10:10 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20-10:10
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:45-9:15
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:45-1:15-4 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4
Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Hugo (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:20-2:10-5-8 Mon-Thu 2:10-5-8
Hugo 3D (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:25-10:20 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:30-7:25-10:20
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Sun 11:05-4:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:45-10:25
Immortals (18A) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:25 Thu 2:20
Immortals 3D (18A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-9:55 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20-9:55
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Sun 11:55-3:15-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:55-10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-12:45-3:10-5:30-7:55-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:10-5:30-7:55-10:15
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-7:25 Mon-Thu 7:25
The Muppets (G) Special Engagement Fri 10:55-11:25-1:55-2:25-4:30-5:7-10:7-40-9:45-10:15 Special Engagement Sat 11:25-1:55-2:25-4:30-5:7-10:7-40-9:45-10:15 Special Engagement Sun 10:55-11:25-1:55-2:25-4:30-5:7-10:7-40-9:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:30-5:7-10:7-40-9:45-10:15
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:40-1:3-20-5:40-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:20-5:40-8-10:30
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sun 10:40-12:55-3-15-5-35-7:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 3-15-5-35-7:50-10:05 Fri-Sun 10:40-12:55-3-15-5-35-7:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 3-15-5-35-7:50-10:05
Real Steel (PG) Fri-Sun 10:50-1:55-4:50-7:45-10:30 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:45-10:30 Thu 4:50
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:20-4:55-7:40-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:20-4:55-7:40-10:25 Thu 2:20-4:55
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 10:45-11:15-1:30-2-4:10-4:40-7-7:30-9:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 2-4:10-4:40-7-7:30-9:50-10:20
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (18A) Special Engagement Fri-Thu 7-9:30
The Way (STC) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:35-1:25-4:05-7:05-9:50 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05-9:50

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Cape Elizabeth, Maine – It's 360 degrees of fun and adventure in the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. With tons of cargo space and best-in-class fuel efficiency, it's all doing and less fueling for this family.

1. Added boat in the water above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2. Changed front wheel reflector in bicycle to orange 3. Removed support bar above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 4. Removed seat reflector on bicycle 5. Added stripe to purple helmet 6. Changed colour of flowers behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 7. Removed lug nut cover on rear tire of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 8. Changed colour of bag in the trunk of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 9. Moved the position of the white boat 10. Removed tint from the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox window

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Wait, motherhood breeds swagger?

Fresh off the runway from Tuesday night's television special, Victoria's Secret moms share their thoughts

It's not just the push-up bras or feathered wings that give some top Victoria's Secret models their sexy swagger: It's their off-the-catwalk lives as mothers that give them their confidence and signature curves, they say.

Miranda Kerr, Doutzen Kroes and Alessandra Ambrosio have all been crowned VS Angels, so they are among the half-dozen models to get the best outfits and most face time during the lingerie giant's televised annual fashion show, which aired Tuesday night on CBS.

Backstage, wearing their short, hot-pink satin robes, they're also the ones attracting the most attention.

What were they talking about with all those photographers, makeup artists and other models?

Nutrition, exercise and juggling their jet-setting careers with their little ones.

Kroes and Kerr have bona fide babies, both giving birth to sons last January. Ambrosio's daughter was born in 2008.

But motherhood hasn't slowed them down at all: Kerr even got to wear the coveted diamond-covered bra. "I was asked to do it after I gave birth," said Kerr. "That was awesome. It's such an honour."

Ed Razek, chief marketing officer for Victoria's Secret parent Limited Brands, has long taken the position that the company wants feminine, womanly models, because that's who looks best in the lingerie.

"It's true, a number of our models have come back from having a baby more beautiful than ever. I know that some of them have used the show date as a goal to get back in shape and, I think, having a baby has given them a sense of confidence, an 'I can do anything' attitude that is reflected on the runway."

One thing model moms can do is make money.

Forbes ranks Gisele Bundchen, Heidi Klum, Kate Moss, Adriana Lima and Ambrosio — all often photographed with their children — as the top earners of the industry this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Doutzen Kroes

It was empowering to mould her new figure into shape, said Kroes, 27, who did "abs, abs, lots of ab exercises all the time." Her body isn't quite the same now as it was pre-baby, and she hopes it never goes back.

"I wish every woman can feel so sexy after birth. It's your body, but it's also a feeling."

On the surface, her two worlds might not seem like a perfect match, but they are, she said.

"You get your hair and makeup done!"

She also has a lot of control over her schedule. Even if she needs to be on location for a few days, it'll never be longer, and then she'll have many days off, Kroes explained.

"It's not a 9-to-5 job."

She often can bring her son, Phyllon, on set, though she only does that when working locally.

"I don't want him to become a 'traveller' when he is still so young."

AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Miranda Kerr

Pilates, yoga, weight training with resistance bags were all key factors in Kerr's new-mom fitness routine, said the 28-year-old, and they're all things that can be done in her living room.

"I do have less time, but I do try to exercise every day. I exercise at home with my son playing around with his toys on the floor."

She says she hopes Flynn's watching and that he'll learn to incorporate physical activity into his daily life without a thought. The same goes for a healthy diet. Flynn is too young to watch the Victoria's Secret show now, of course, but Kerr will let him see her runway photos later.

"I'm sure he'll be happy his mom had wings."

AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Alessandra Ambrosio

Her catwalk costumes are a little less risqué now, but she's not ready to hang up the Brazilian-cup bras and short shorts.

"I'm definitely more proud of my body now," she said.

"Our bodies are changed as we get older, and I'm more conscious of it now. Now, I'm a woman doing the show, not a girl."

Part of that is giving up chocolate in the weeks before the show; she didn't always have to do that.

And part of it is being able to walk in heels without teetering. She's also learned to ham it up for the camera and the audience.

Ambrosio got her Angel wings in 2004, when she was the first spokesmodel for the then-new Pink collection, which is loungewear geared for a more youthful customer.

That's when she felt she was "a flirty and cheeky teenager" versus the sexy woman she is at age 30.

You can buy actual Dunder Mifflin paper products now

CASSANDRA GARRISON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

You may not be able to work at The Office, but you can at least buy paper from the fictional company Dunder Mifflin.

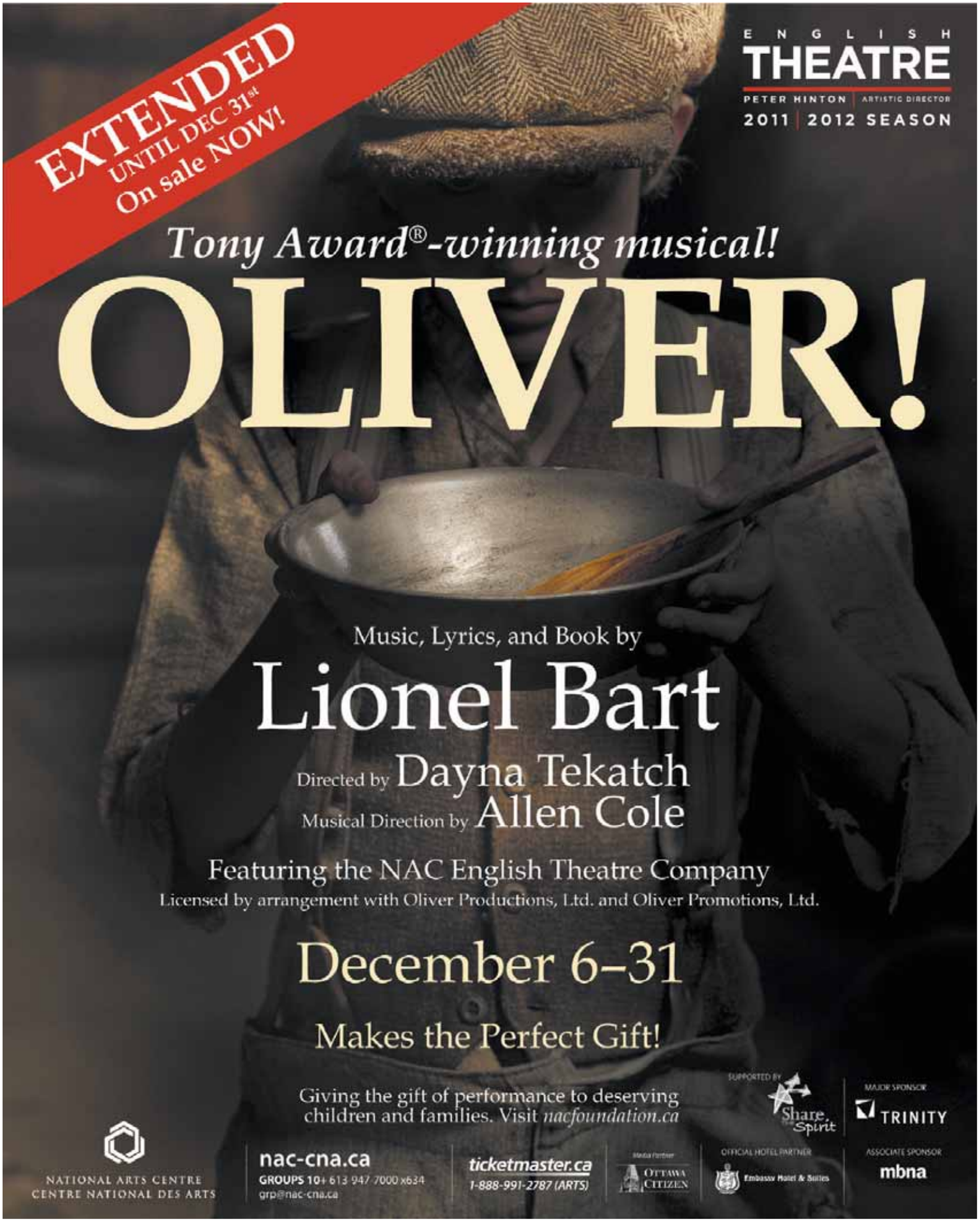
The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reports that NBC's parent company Comcast and the Staples-owned website Quill.com have reached a licensing deal that will put Dunder Mifflin-brand paper products up for sale on the site.

The product packaging will feature familiar slogans from the show like "Our motto is, 'Quabity First'" and "Get Your Scrant on."

Big-box retailers like Staples are often mentioned on the show as Dunder Mifflin's biggest competition. In real-life though, the two companies are now partners, much to the delight of paper-loving Office fans.

According to the WSJ, Dunder Mifflin products are much pricier than private-label copy paper, but can you really put a price on the paper that launched Michael Scott to executive fame?

FLICKR: TOMDOBB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Glee hitting the right notes

Show's music definitely won't disappoint this season, says Cory Monteith

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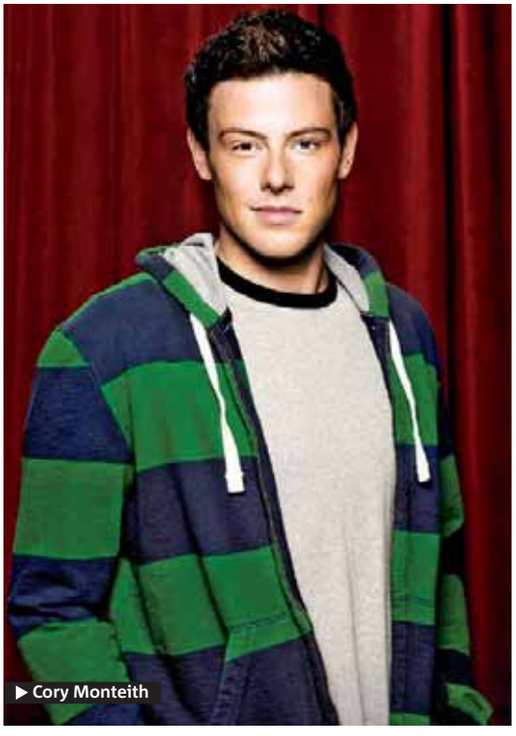

▶ Cory Monteith

After a bumpy — and highly criticized — second season, Glee looks to be back on track, and according to series star Cory Monteith, a lot of that has to do with how the show is choosing its music.

What kind of music are they giving you for your character?
Oh, man I'm so excited (looks to his publicist). Can I? No, I can't. There is one song that I cover that is typically like a female vocalized-pop song from the '80s, and it has been pared down into this acoustic-slow-piano wonderful ballad, almost. They have done some really great stuff with music this season especially. It's really influenced and inspired by the story-lines. Whereas before — last season we did tribute episodes, things like the music was implying the storyline.

Are you saying last season they did a lot of stuff that was more current just because they could?
Right. I feel that in the second season we got the opportunity to do whatever artist we wanted to cover because the show was big, and so, you know, there was a lot of, you know, very expository, very kind of larger-than-life numbers and things. And this year, they have a very specific idea of where they want the storyline and where they want the characters to go, and then they choose the songs around that. So it is very much the songs are inspired by the storyline this year, which is great because as an actor you have so much to do because of why you're singing it.

There was a lot of talk over the summer about what happens to characters like yours, that are seniors, after they graduate this year. Has that been on your mind at all?
Well, everybody graduates eventually, but I really don't know. We haven't really had that conversation. It's been, you know, discussed that Glee cast members will graduate, but I really don't know when ... If I graduate, you know, then I move on to do other things.

So what was the name of the song you mentioned?
I wish I could talk about the songs, but I think there is a sharpshooter out there just in case we say the wrong thing.
(Ed. Note: the song was Girls Just Wanna Have Fun).

TV Picks

▶ I Hate My Teenage Daughter

High school sweethearts?

COMEDY. If you missed Thursday's debut over on Fox, you can catch the new sitcom I Hate My Teenage Daughter Friday on Global. The show centres on best friends and single mothers Annie (Jaime Pressly) and Nikki (Katie Finneran), who worry their daughters are turning into exactly the type of cruel girls who bullied them in high school. (Global)

Suspicious behaviour

DRAMA. Kudos to those of you sticking with Ringer despite the erratic highs and lows of this hit-and-miss rookie show. On Friday, Henry realizes he must work with Bridget to learn more about Gemma's disappearance, and Malcolm shares his suspicions about Charlie with the police. (Global)

Comedy classics return

STAND-UP. Comedy legends new and old are all over the dial Saturday. Canada's reigning stand-up king takes the stage in Russell Peters: The Green Card Tour Live From the O2 Arena over on The Comedy Network. Meanwhile, The Ed Sullivan Comedy Special on PBS features the indelible comic stylings of Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, George Carlin and Richard Pryor.

Holiday help

DESIGN. Get a jump on holiday party planning on Saturday with the help of merry tips from The Party. Samantha Pynn of the show Pure Design visits some of her favourite designers for holiday inspiration. (HGTV)

Great flying pumpkins

SPORTS? Punkin Chunkin is back. Mythbusters hosts Kari Byron, Tory Belleci and Grant Imahara helm the pumpkin-throwing event. Participants build machines, air cannons and catapults to hurl the gourds as far as possible. (Discovery Channel Canada)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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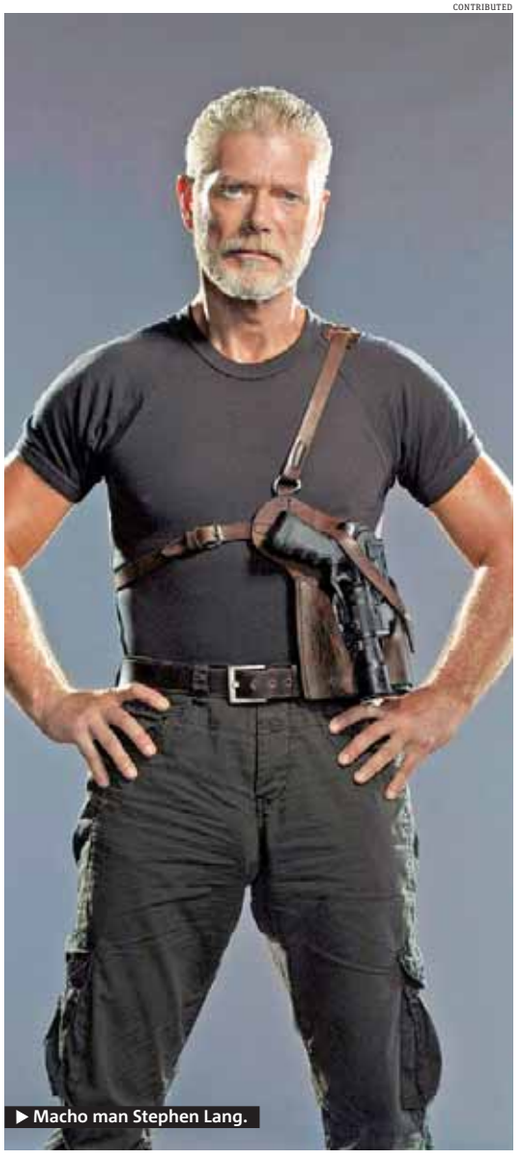
CONTRIBUTED



▶ Macho man Stephen Lang.

A whole other planet

On Terra Nova, Stephen Lang says he's covering new ground

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Actor Stephen Lang is getting attention for his work playing a gruff, militaristic leader shepherding a group of humans through a foreign landscape filled with deadly creatures. No, not Avatar.

While Lang's new gig as Commander Taylor on Terra Nova — in which he leads a pilgrimage of humans 85 million years into the past to colonize an alternate earth — might bear some resemblance to the 2009 blockbuster that shot him to fame, he's quick to point out the differences.

And if you want to typecast him, he's fine with that, too.

"You know, I'm 59-years old and if I'm typed right now, I'm typed as a charismatic, macho, silver fox. So, if that's the case, I can live with that."

STEPHEN LANG

Were you reluctant to take this part because of similarities people might draw with Avatar?

Obviously, there's a certain similarity in their backgrounds.

I just felt that the trajectory that the characters take is so vastly different, that after a certain breaking in period you would see Taylor as his own distinct personality, as opposed to being related to Avatar.

Are you at all afraid of typecasting after Avatar and then this role?

You know, I'm 59 years old, and if I'm typed right now, I'm typed as a charismatic, macho, silver fox. So, if that's the case, I can live with that (laughs).

How much of Taylor's backstory did they let you in on beforehand?

We've discussed backstory from day one on this. Even in our initial meetings we talked about how this guy comes to be, and who he is. Backstory emerges as fact as it becomes necessary. I can give you three possibilities of what Taylor went through in the year 2139. And whatever will serve our story best is the one that we will adopt, because it only becomes fact when it hits the screen, when it gets written in, you know?

What was your impression when you first saw the pilot episode?

I thought that we were on our — how do you put it? It's a maiden voyage. There's a certain caution that goes with it. There's a certain finding your way, as the show finds its own sort of tone. I liked it. You see fully-formed characters. It tells a story. I thought the effects worked as well as we wanted them to work. But as in all the work I've ever done, I feel there's room for advancement in it, clearly. And so, you know, it made me proud, but also anxious to do better.

How much does it help with your performance when you're on location, and not on a sound stage as much as you would be on another TV show?

It helps in ways you're probably not even conscious of. I mean, just being out in a pristine environment — that's where you're supposed to be. It's one less artificial element to have to create.

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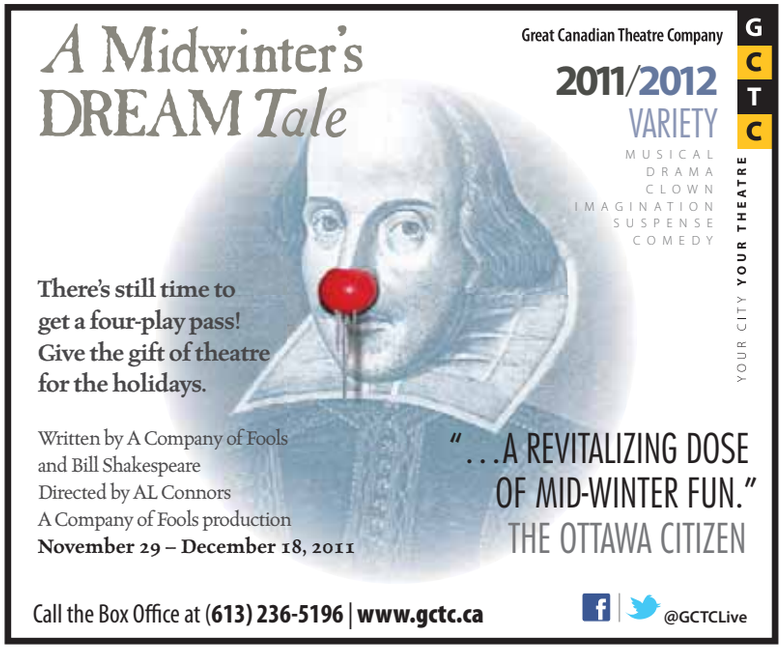

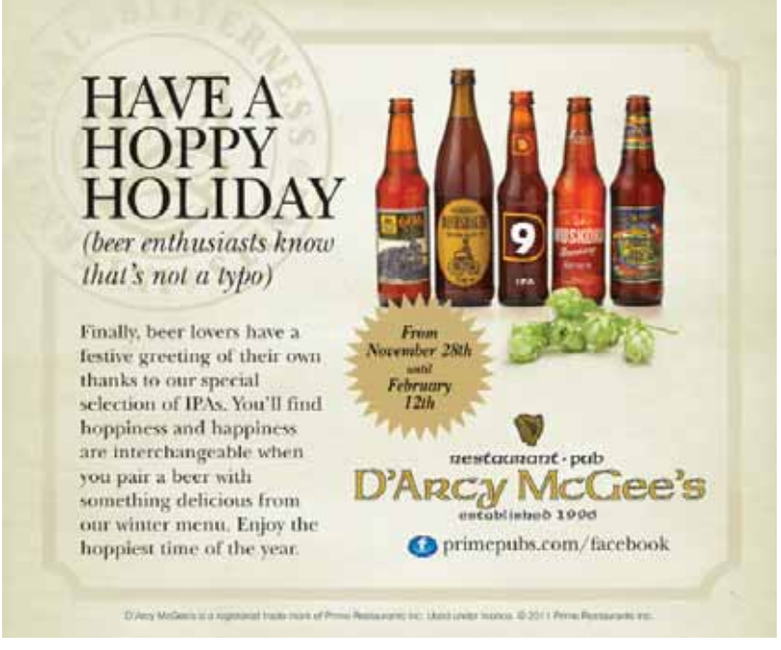
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Touch heaven in a Little Hell

Dallas Green touches on depression, his family in City and Color's new album It's his darkest album to date

SAM SWEENEY
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HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dallas Green opens up about his family on his new album.

The cover art for City and Color's latest album, Little Hell, may be a colourful illustration of tulips in a Dutch field — but there are much darker themes in the words within.

The indie folk instrumentation is decorated with Dallas Green's lyrics, which largely touch upon the personal aspects of his life. Although his past two albums have also held intimate details of his problems or parts of his relationship, Little Hell has tracks that deal with previously untouched material such as insomnia and depression, and songs such as O' Sister and The Grand Optimist that deal with family issues.

"All of my records are pretty much the same as far as the honesty and lyrics," Green says, "so I think that because this has a few songs on it that deal directly with my family members, people assume it's more personal than the last."

It's hard for listeners not to assume that, with lyrics like: "Does it have something to do with the pills they gave to you?" in O' Sister, which delves into Green's thoughts on his sibling's depression.

For Green, who was formerly the singer for Alexisonfire, his third album as City and Colour marks a chance to let loose and create music that felt right and reflected his own life.

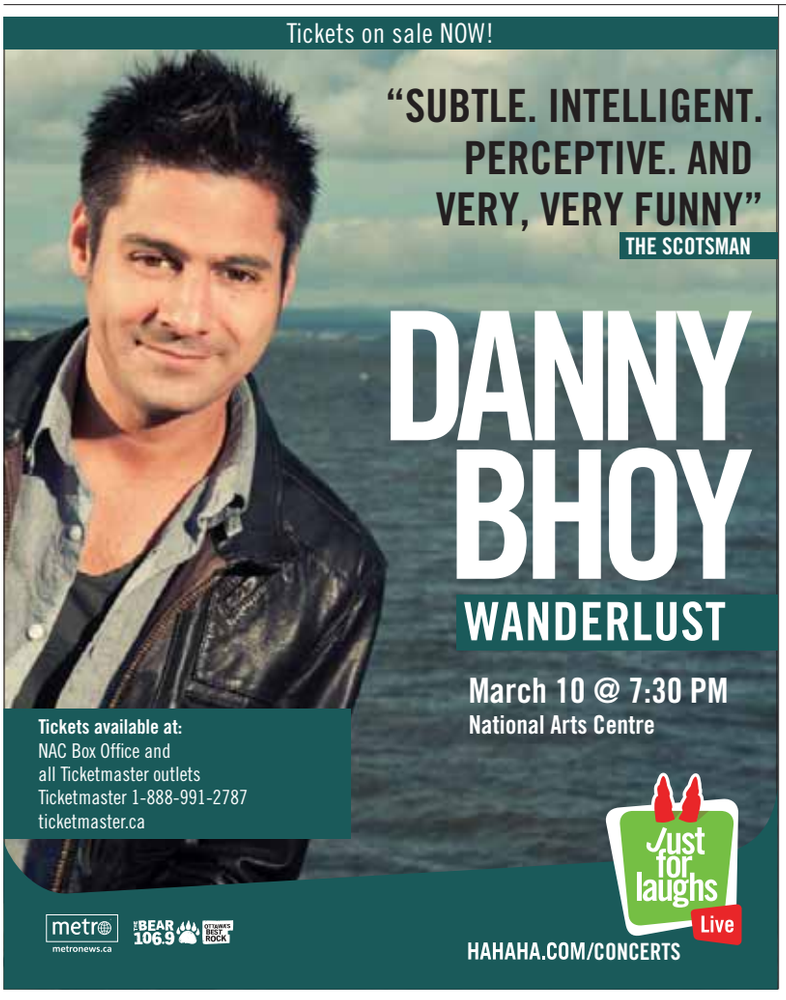
"I think that because this has a few songs on it that deal directly with my family members, people assume it's more personal than the last."
DALLAS GREEN ON HIS LATEST ALBUM

"I just wanted to make it all about whatever I wanted it to be," he says. "There's a bunch of songs on the record that have a full band, and there's even some louder songs on the record. I didn't want to suppress all those ideas I had just because people have a certain idea of what City and Colour should sound like."

A little heaven with Little Hell

Green has found that getting through instances that are part of his own Little Hell is easier because he is a musician. Even on the days he wakes up sick or becomes fed up with life on the road, he says performing for his fans is what makes it all worthwhile.

"Sometimes you just don't want to go to work, and today was one of those days where I'm like, 'I don't want to play tonight.' But I know the best part about that is I'll be able to go onstage and it'll all go away. That's the heaven part for me," he says. "The travelling and the sitting in the rainy parking lot with nothing around us ... that's not what I like about being a musician. The getting up and singing the songs, that's my favourite part."



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AN ALTERNATIVE TO THOSE YULETIDE CAROLS

SOUND CHECK

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There are better choices than Winter Wonderland. Let us help you find a few for the season.

Chances are your city has at least one radio station that flipped to an all-Christmas format last month. This is a HUGE ratings-getter, especially for those stations that get played in offices and workplaces.

But how many times can a person hear Jose Feliciano sing Feliz Navidad before insanity creeps in?

And please, let's not hear any talk of season music from Justin Bieber or Susan Boyle.

So what is a rock fan supposed to do when it comes to Yuletide music? I'm glad you asked.

Black Label Society: Glorious Christmas Songs That Will Make Your Black Label Heart Feel Good. Hail Santa! (out now): Zakk Wylde, one of Ozzy's favourite guitarists, offers up a three-track instrumental EP. O Little Town of Bethleham never sounded like this before.

Bowling for Soup: Merry Flippin' Christmas Vol. 1 and 2 (out now): These Texas goofballs have updated and expanded their 2009 Xmas EP that includes both classics and, um, soon-to-be classics. Look for it on iTunes.

Rob Halford: Winter Songs (Out now): Who knew that Judas Priest's leather-clad front dude had such a soft spot for the Yuletide season? On this 2009 release, he's pretty faithful to songs like We Three Kings and Come All Ye Faithful, but the metal isn't too far in the background.

She & Him: A Very She & Him Christmas (out now): On one hand, Zooey Deschanel (the "She" in this band) seems to be doing well with her TV series, New Girl. On the other, she and Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard separated last month after two years of marriage. Keep that in mind as you listen to songs like I'll Be Home for Christmas and Blue Christmas.

Scott Weiland: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (out now): During an interview we did 18 months ago, the Stone Temple Pilots' singer dropped a bomb (including on his record company people, who were in attendance) that he wanted to release a Christmas record. The album features pretty straight renditions of the classics, often in a jazz style.

Various Artists: Christmas with The Salads & Friends (out Tuesday): One of Canada's best ska-punk party bands twisted some arms and got their friends — including Ill Scarlett and the Johnstones — to contribute to a new Christmas album. All tracks on this digital-only release are previously unreleased.

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA

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▶ M. Ward and Zooey Deschanel, a.k.a. She & Him.

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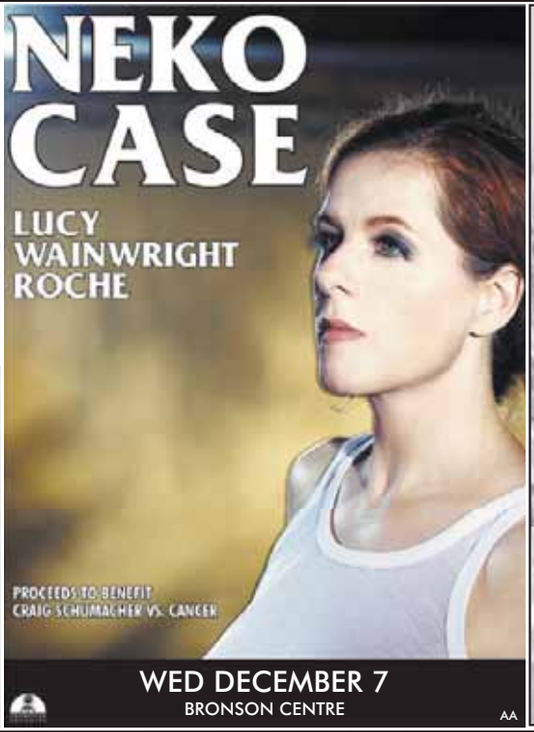

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No room for big music egos

Rock band Casting Crowns continue to top Christian charts between ministering duties Say they're 'dorks'

Four times a week, Mark Hall ministers to youth at a suburban Atlanta megachurch, working from an office where the walls are lined with vintage Marvel comic books and that also houses a stone-like desk decorated with symbols from The Avengers.

In Hall's eyes, he's a "dork." But when he steps away from his youth pastor endeavours and comic memorabilia collection, the 42-year-old stars as the lead singer and songwriter of Casting Crowns, a seven-member, Grammy-winning contemporary Christian rock band, one of the most popular in the genre.

In mid-October, the group released their latest album, Come to the Well.

It debuted at No. 2 on Billboard's Top 200 charts, trailing only behind Adele, who has dominated the charts with her bestselling album 21.

The band's album also topped the Christian album chart for three weeks in a row.

The band has become accustomed to leading the Christian chart. Their 2009 album, Until the Whole World Hears, was No. 1 on the chart for 18 weeks.

However, the success doesn't define the band, according to Hall.

"Fame is such an illusion," said Hall, who has been a youth pastor at Eagles Landing First Baptist Church for about 10 years. "If you look at me, I'm just a dork that I've always been. The way I see it, God connected with them (fans) through our song that he let me write. There's no room for me or us to get a big head."

"Fame is such an illusion. If you look at me, I'm just a dork that I've always been. The way I see it, God connected with them (fans) through our song that he let me write." MARK HALL

Since the band's debut album in 2003, Casting Crowns has gone platinum three times and gold twice. They've earned a Grammy award for their 2005 album Lifesong, won five Group of the Year titles at the Dove Awards — gospel's highest honour — and they just won an award for Contemporary Inspirational Artist at the American Music Awards this month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Mark Hall of the group Casting Crowns performs at the Dove Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

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The best and brightest

Adele, Bruno Mars, Kanye West lead Grammy nominations Canada's Drake gets three of his own award nods

ALL PHOTOS MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

▶ Nicki Minaj and LL Cool J are seen at the Grammy Nominations Concert in Los Angeles.

Adele and Bruno Mars are set to compete in every major Grammy category, while Canadians Drake and Deadmau5 received three nods apiece as the annual awards bash announced its nominations on Wednesday night.

While Adele and Mars took six nominations each — including nods for album, song and record of the year — the overall lead belonged to Chicago rapper Kanye West, a seven-time nominee heading into the Feb. 12 awards show.

Still, West was shut out of the evening's marquee category, with his critically beloved masterwork My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy failing to make the cut for album of the year consideration.

Instead, Adele's mournful juggernaut 21 and Mars' hit-packed Doo-Wops & Hooligans will compete with Foo Fighters' Wasting Light, Lady Gaga's Born This Way, and Rihanna's Loud.

The Foo Fighters also had six nominations while dubstep star Skrillex provided one of the evening's surprises by amassing five nominations.

Indeed, while Adele — the British crooner who took the charts by storm with her surprise smash of a breakup album — was expected to feature heavily in the 54th instalment of the Grammys, the nominations still featured plenty of minor shocks.

Chief among those were the four nominations for Wisconsin indie-folk outfit Bon Iver. The group, led by distinctive singer Justin Vernon, is up for song and record of the year as well as best new artist, a category that also features Nicki Minaj, the Band Perry, J. Cole and Skrillex.

West was shut out of the evening's marquee category, with his critically beloved masterwork My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy failing to make the cut for album of the year consideration.

And the top categories featured other surprising omissions aside from West, including country phenomenon Taylor Swift and veteran crooner Tony Bennett.

The nominations were announced after the Recording Academy's fourth annual live concert special, which aired on CBS from the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles. The hour-long event featured performances by key nominees like Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Nicki Minaj and the Band Perry.

While most assumed this would be a down year for Canadian hopefuls, several Canucks landed nominations.

Toronto rapper Drake — a six-time nominee in the past — released his sophomore opus Take Care too late for Grammy consideration but still managed three nominations, including one for best rap performance for his Minaj collaboration Moment 4 Life and two more in the best rap/sung collaboration category: the posse cut I'm On One and his Rihanna duet What's My Name?

Deadmau5 — the Niagara Falls, Ont., producer whose real name is Joel Zimmerman — is also a previous nominee. This year, he's up for best dance album for 4x4 12, best dance recording for his Greta Svabo Bech collaboration Raise Your Weapon and best remixed recording for his version of Foo Fighters' Rope.

Other Canadian nominees include Ajax, Ont., pop-punk outfit Sum 41 — who are up for best hard rock/metal performance for Blood in My Eyes — and Toronto's Melanie Fiona, who landed a nomination for best traditional R&B performance for her Cee Lo Green duet Fool For You, which also earned a nomination for best R&B song.

Unlike the past two years — in which Swift and trio Lady Antebellum racked up a spate of nominations — no country act managed to soar in the general categories, with the Band Perry grabbing the only country nod in the mainstream categories. The 54th Grammy ceremony will mark the first since the academy shaved its categories from 109 to 78 this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Adele

▶ Common

▶ Bruno Mars

Nominations

Nominees announced Wednesday in top categories for the 54th annual Grammy Awards:

- **Record of the Year** Rolling in the Deep, Adele; Holocene, Bon Iver; Grenade, Bruno Mars; The Cave, Mumford & Sons; Firework, Katy Perry.
- **Album of the Year** 21, Adele; Wasting Light, Foo Fighters; Born This Way, Lady Gaga; Doo-Wops & Hooligans, Bruno Mars; Loud, Rihanna.
- **Song of the Year** All of the Lights, Jeff Bhasker, Malik Jones, Warren Trotter and Kanye West, songwriters (performed by Kanye West, Rihanna, Kid Cudi and Fergie); The Cave, Ted Dwane, Ben Lovett, Marcus Mumford and Country Winston, songwriters (Mumford & Sons); Grenade, Brody Brown, Claude Kelly, Philip Lawrence, Ari Levine, Bruno Mars and Andrew Wyatt, songwriters (Bruno Mars); Holocene, Justin Vernon, songwriter (Bon Iver); Rolling in the Deep, Adele Adkins & Paul Epworth, songwriters (Adele).
- **New Artist** New Artist: The Band Perry, Bon Iver, J. Cole, Nicki Minaj, Skrillex.
- **R&B Album** F.A.M.E., Chris Brown; Second Chance, El DeBarge; Love Letter, R. Kelly; Pieces of Me, Ledisi; Kelly, Kelly Price.
- **Rap Album** Watch the Throne, Jay-Z and Kanye West; Tha Carter IV, Lil Wayne; Lasers, Lupe Fiasco; Pink Friday, Nicki Minaj; My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, Kanye West.

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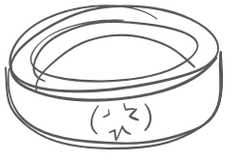
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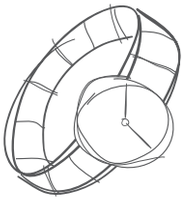

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MJ's ex-doc

Murray may be home for Xmas

PRISON OVERCROWDING. Despite being sentenced to four years in prison for involuntary manslaughter, Dr. Conrad Murray could be home for Christmas, according to Radar Online.

The disgraced doc was given the maximum sentence for his role in the death of Michael Jackson, but because of overcrowding problems in California prisons, it's expected that Murray will serve out the bulk of his sentence under house arrest.

"Dr. Murray's lawyers are actually relieved that Judge Pastor didn't sentence him to community service, like Lindsay Lohan is doing at the morgue," a source says. METRO

Celebrity tweets

Shooting 30 Rock in 212 today. I'm working the streets again...

@AlecBaldwin

@rosemcgowan

On my way to a wild animal park! Yippee!

@michaelianblack

How am I supposed to work when there's so much internet?

@SarahKSilverman

Let's get into the Christmas Spirit & lie about how we got pregnant.

Is Scarlett still in love with Ryan?

Her post-divorce romance with Sean Penn didn't pan out Now she's apparently got a hate-on for her ex's new squeeze — Blake Lively

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Scarlett Johansson

Even though her marriage to Ryan Reynolds ended last year, Scarlett Johansson is still reportedly preoccupied with his love life — and sources say she absolutely loathes his latest girlfriend, Blake Lively, according to Us Weekly.

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore," a source says. "She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."

Adding insult to injury? The fact that while Johansson's post-divorce romance with Sean Penn fizzled out, Reynolds and Lively seem to be going strong.

"Things are great [for Blake and Ryan]," says the source.

"They haven't had a fight yet." METRO

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore. She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."
SOURCE

Just how old is Beyoncé's bump?

Beyoncé

Though it was previously reported that Beyoncé's baby was due in February, some are speculating that she could actually be giving birth as early as this month, according to Hollyscoop.

A recently released behind-the-scenes video shows Beyoncé referring to herself as six months pregnant — only the video was shot in September. "Right now I'm actually shooting the video for Countdown and I'm six months pregnant, pretending that my stomach is flat in body suits," Beyoncé says in the video. "But thank God you can't really tell from the front, but when I turn to the side ... oh baby! Oh baby!" METRO

Brit to wed?

There's been plenty of speculation about when Britney Spears and Jason Trawick might take the next step toward marriage, and it's reportedly going to be very soon.

"They've been talking about marriage for a long time," a source tells People magazine. "It would be surprising if they are not engaged by the end of the year." In fact, the engagement is so close that, according to the source, Trawick has already picked out a ring. METRO

Ashton back into single life

Ashton Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher appeared to make the most of his newly single status while home in Iowa for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Us Weekly.

The Two and a Half Men star was spotted with his entourage at several bars around Iowa City over the long weekend.

"He was drinking beer, and girls kept coming up to him," says a source of Kutcher's night out on Friday.

"He loved the attention. Girls were hugging him and shaking his hand."

And it continued Saturday, according to another source: "He was swarmed by girls. A few tried to convince him to go to a strip club, but he declined." METRO

"He was drinking beer and girls kept coming up to him. He loved the attention."
SOURCE

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While we like to think we watch our weight with Jennifer Hudson precision, as the weeks creep closer to Christmas, the call of an ice cold glass of cream liqueur gets louder.

I like how the creamier side of booze has found a permanent home snuggled up to the holiday season. Typically sweet with a support system of some sort of spirit, it really is the liquid personification of making merry.

I'm betting most of you will think only of Baileys ($26.49 - $30.80) when it comes to a delectable creamer. Famous as it is, the Irish whiskey-based classic has plenty of competition with many modern variations on the theme hitting store shelves.

St-Rémy à la Crème ($26.99 - $28.98) is the newest kid on the rack. Made with a soothing base of French brandy, its snow white creaminess drinks with the silky consistency of vanilla ice cream.

Once opened, a cream liquor will last about two years if refrigerated. That's if the bottle's contents survives until New Year's.

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Deck the halls and entertain with ease

Joni Lien and Chris Wood, founders of Ontario-based business SupperWorks, offer their Top 6 tips to make any dinner party jolly

ISTOCK.COM

▶ Above all, remember to enjoy yourself at the party.

The folks at SupperWorks know a thing or two about entertaining. At their 16 Ontario locations they've been taking the "work out of supper" since 2005 by creating delicious recipes, doing the shopping, the washing, the chopping and the clean-up so that customers can prepare delicious, wholesome meals at home without the time and without any hassle. Don't live in Ontario? No worries. SupperWorks delivers right across Canada.

Here are Lien and Wood's tips to make your party a smash.

Plan ahead

Although it may seem obvious, the top entertainment tip for any dinner party is to plan it out. From menu to dinnerware and beverages, planning translates into a successful dinner party.

Check for allergies

Check with your guests in advance to see if they have any food allergies, likes, dislikes or if they are following a particular diet, and adjust your menu accordingly. You may want to offer a vegetarian and a gluten free option.

Be practical

Design your menu around their preferences and your kitchen. A main course and two sides that all require heating in the oven at three different temperatures is not practical if you want to get all three dishes on the table at once.

Stick to what you know

Try not to tackle too many new recipes when entertaining. Stick to what you know and do well. If you do want to serve a new recipe, consider picking up an entrée or sides from somewhere like SupperWorks. SupperWorks entrées serve four to six people and are proven winners when it comes to taste and convenience.

Do what restaurants do

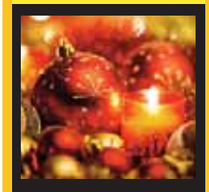
Chill your plates for dishes that will be served cold and heat your plates for dishes that will be served hot. It's a small thing but it makes a big impact. Giving your plates 30 minutes in the fridge before serving keeps your cold dishes cold, and giving your plates five minutes in a 350° oven keeps your hot dishes hot.

Enjoy yourself

Remember that a dinner party is a great time for socializing with friends and family, and enjoying the season. TO LEARN ABOUT SUPPERWORKS, VISIT SUPPERWORKS.COM

3 life

More great tips



1. Decide on whether your dinner is going to be served "family style" or "plated" and make certain that you have the right plates and silverware.
2. Select dishes that allow you to do as much advance preparation as possible.
3. Set the mood by considering music, lighting and table decor. SUPPERWORKS

For great winter-friendly recipes, visit metronews.ca/food or scan this code.

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Senators let the 'Daug' out

THE HOCKEY NEWS

MURRAY PAM
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

While it took a little longer than he'd hoped, the 'Daug' is finally having his day.

A third-round pick by Ottawa in 2006, Kaspars Daugavins, 23, got the call that eluded him the previous season and he's proving he belongs in the NHL. For now.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound grinder is playing responsibly on defence, adding some offence and endearing himself to teammates and fans with his — pardon the pun — dogged approach. He had three goals and six points in 15 games, including a game-winner against the rival Maple Leafs to help elevate his reputation.

Aligned with shift-disturber Zack Smith and speedy Erik Condra, he's part of a trio that has become one of the Senators' most consistent and productive lines of late, accounting for five goals in three games.

Averaging more than 14 minutes of ice time per game, Daugavins has also gained the confidence of coach Paul MacLean and is among the first over the boards on the penalty kill.

"He trusts us, me and Jesse (Winchester)," Daugavins said. "I have figured out how to play the PK. It's working out."

It didn't always look that way. Despite garnering 54 points in AHL Binghamton last season, a frustrated Daugavins watched as Colin Greening, Bobby Butler, Condra and Smith were promoted ahead of him.

"I worked hard everyday, hoping that the call would come, but it didn't," he said.

A restricted free agent in the off-season, Daugavins was on the cusp of going home to play in Latvia when he heard Dave Cameron was named an assistant with the Senators. Cameron had been influential to Daugavins during his young career, mentoring him for a short time in the AHL and for parts of two seasons with the OHL's Mississauga St. Michael's Majors. With Cameron entrenched in Ottawa, Daugavins agreed to a one-year deal, hoping to get an extended look at camp.

While he didn't stick immediately, he returned to the AHL with a good attitude, and registered six points in seven games to earn the recall.

Of course, his job isn't guaranteed. When Chris Neil returns from an ankle sprain in the coming days and reclaims his spot on the third line, the Sens will have to decide what to do with Daugavins.

With the effort the youngster has been exerting and the results he has been getting of late, Daugavins is going to make the club's decision awfully tough.

PHILLIP MACCALLUM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kaspars Daugavins falls to the ice as he defends against the Hurricanes.

Quoted

"I'm very proud of the time that I've spent with the Galaxy and it might continue."

DAVID BECKHAM. THE FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN SAID HE HAS A "BIG DECISION TO MAKE" AFTER HIS CONTRACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY EXPIRES AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO PLAY FOR THE BRITISH TEAM IN THE LONDON OLYMPICS NEXT YEAR.

Scan code for more sports news.

Win not enough to save Ducks coach

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ducks fans show their displeasure for head coach Randy Carlyle on Sunday.

The Anaheim Ducks fired coach Randy Carlyle late Wednesday night and hired former Washington coach Bruce Boudreau, who was dismissed by the Capitals just two days earlier.

The Ducks made the abrupt move after beating Montreal 4-1 on Wednesday night for the club's third victory in 19 games, snapping a seven-game skid.

Carlyle coached the Ducks to their only Stanley Cup title in 2007, but struggled to get his talented club's attention this season. Carlyle agreed to a three-year contract extension through the 2013-14 season in August, but Anaheim got off to a perplexing 7-13-4 start.

"Randy is a terrific head coach, and did a tremendous job for us for six-plus seasons," Anaheim general manager Bob Murray said. "We thank him greatly for his hard work and dedication to our franchise, not the least of which was a Stanley Cup championship. At this time, we simply felt a new voice was needed. Bruce is a proven winner with a great track record, and we are optimistic we can turn this season around under his leadership."

Carlyle has the most coaching wins in Ducks history, and he was behind Anaheim's bench for many of the 1993 expansion franchise's biggest moments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A B.C. Lions fan works the crowd prior to the start of the CFL 99th Grey Cup last Sunday in Vancouver.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Blue Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce reflects on last Sunday's Grey Cup loss to the Lions in Vancouver.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ It appears Wally Buono's Grey Cup win will go down as his final game coached.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Steven Jyles will be back with the Argos in 2012.

Gloves already off in CFL off-season

CFL EXTRA POINTS

DAN TOTH
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

The Canadian Football League's off-season is like a Joe Kapp right cross — unexpected and dramatic, while packing enough punch to knock a veteran to the floor.

The next few months should be filled with staggering developments as all eight teams start juggling their rosters and running coaches out of town. The ultimate goal is to rebuild and make a run at the 100th Grey Cup next November in Toronto. Hamilton head coach Marcel Bellefeuille has already been sent packing, Winnipeg offensive co-ordinator Jamie Barresi has been booted, Calgary defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones has bolted for Toronto and Montreal offensive co-ordinator Scott Milanovich has reunited with Argos GM Jim Barker. Consider the many other possibilities:

Buono steps aside: Newly crowned Grey Cup champ Wally Buono, who earned his fifth ring as a coach in Sunday's win over Winnipeg, has likely coached his last game.

At 61, Buono appears ready to hand the Lions' reins to a successor (possibly defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides) and watch from the press box. Buono's three-year contract expires in 2013, and when he signed the current deal he made it clear that he would not necessarily perform both roles until the contract expired.

Bombers look to strike first with Pierce: Winnipeg Blue Bombers GM Joe Mack will have his hands full this off-season with about a dozen unsigned free agents, including D-lineman Doug Brown who is expected to retire.

On top of Mack's list is quarterback Buck Pierce, who proved his mettle by avoiding injuries to get his club to the Grey Cup game. Mack also has to be concerned with fielding a team that can fill the new 33,000-seat Winnipeg Stadium that opens in 2012.

Riders' top coaching choice already spoken for: Kent Austin tops the Christmas Wish List of most Saskatchewan Roughriders fans, but he's unlikely to accept the head coaching job in Regina.

Now head coach at Cornell University, Austin won a Grey Cup with the Riders in 2007 but finds himself a candidate for a head job with a top college and eventually the NFL. Having Austin return to Regina is a romantic notion for the Riders faithful, but he's a longshot to return. GM Brendan Taman is more likely to offer the job to Calgary OC Dave Dickenson, but is Dickenson keen on the Queen City?

Scott jumps to Argos' ship: Has Scott Milanovich lost his mind? Yes, the Montreal Alouettes 2011 offensive coordinator, who took over Toronto's head coaching position Thursday, is old pals with Argos GM Jim Barker.

But Toronto? Talk about going from the penthouse to the outhouse with one stroke of a pen. Making matters worse, Barker has already re-signed QB Steven Jyles, who can't possibly be the starting quarterback next season.

Burris has suitors in Southern Ontario: Henry Burris, the CFL's Most Outstanding Player in 2010, could have options when it comes to finding a new team next season.

The obvious choice is Toronto, which needs a veteran quarterback like Angelo Mosca needs a good corner man. But Hamilton might also be in the market for a top pivot. Starter Kevin Glenn has been a disappointment in his three seasons in black and gold, even though he guided his team past Montreal in the East semifinal.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	25	14	7	2	2	80	63	32	8-1-2-0	6-6-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
d-Boston	22	15	7	0	1	81	59	31	9-5-0-1	6-2-0-0	9-0-0-1	W2
d-Florida	24	13	7	1	3	67	60	30	5-2-1-3	8-5-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Toronto	24	14	9	1	1	82	81	30	6-4-1-1	8-5-0-0	5-4-0-1	L1
NY Rangers	21	13	5	1	2	60	45	29	7-1-0-1	6-4-1-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Philadelphia	23	13	7	2	1	82	68	29	6-4-1-1	7-3-1-0	6-3-1-0	L1
Buffalo	24	13	10	0	1	68	63	27	6-7-0-1	7-3-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
Ottawa	24	12	10	1	1	75	83	26	6-4-0-1	6-6-1-0	5-3-1-1	W2
Washington	23	12	10	0	1	71	75	25	8-3-0-1	4-7-0-0	3-6-0-1	L3
New Jersey	23	12	10	0	1	58	64	25	5-4-0-1	7-6-0-0	5-5-0-0	L2
Tampa Bay	24	11	11	0	2	65	76	24	7-3-0-0	4-8-0-2	4-6-0-0	L2
Montreal	25	10	11	2	2	62	64	24	4-5-2-2	6-6-0-0	3-4-2-1	L3
Winnipeg	24	9	11	3	1	70	80	22	5-4-0-0	4-7-3-1	4-4-2-0	L2
Carolina	26	8	14	2	2	61	86	20	5-7-0-2	3-7-2-0	3-7-0-0	L4
NY Islanders	22	7	11	3	1	43	69	18	5-6-2-0	2-5-1-1	3-5-2-0	W2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	25	15	7	2	1	60	55	33	9-4-1-0	6-3-1-1	8-2-0-0	W2
d-Detroit	23	15	7	1	0	69	51	31	10-2-1-0	5-5-0-0	8-2-0-0	W6
d-Phoenix	23	13	7	1	2	65	57	29	7-4-1-1	6-3-0-1	6-3-1-0	W2
Chicago	25	14	8	1	2	80	78	31	7-2-0-2	7-6-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
St. Louis	24	14	8	0	2	59	50	30	8-2-0-1	6-6-0-1	7-1-0-2	W4
Vancouver	24	14	9	0	1	73	60	29	6-3-0-1	8-6-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
Dallas	24	14	9	0	1	62	65	29	8-3-0-1	6-6-0-0	3-6-0-1	W1
Los Angeles	24	12	8	2	2	57	55	28	7-6-0-1	5-2-2-1	6-3-1-0	W1
San Jose	21	13	7	1	0	60	48	27	6-4-1-0	7-3-0-0	6-3-1-0	L2
Edmonton	25	12	10	0	3	67	63	27	6-3-0-2	6-7-0-1	3-6-0-1	L3
Nashville	24	11	9	3	1	60	63	26	4-3-2-1	7-6-1-0	4-4-2-0	L1
Colorado	25	11	13	1	0	68	74	23	5-9-0-0	6-4-1-0	4-6-0-0	W1
Calgary	23	10	12	1	0	51	60	21	5-5-1-0	5-7-0-0	4-6-0-0	W2
Anaheim	24	7	13	1	3	54	78	18	5-8-0-0	2-5-1-3	2-7-0-1	W1
Columbus	24	6	15	0	3	55	79	15	5-7-0-1	1-8-0-2	4-6-0-0	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Pittsburgh at Washington
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina
Phoenix at Winnipeg
Ottawa at Dallas
Columbus at Calgary
Nashville at Vancouver
Florida at Los Angeles
Montreal at San Jose
Wednesday's results
Anaheim 4 Montreal 1
Boston 6 Toronto 3
Minnesota 3 Edmonton 2 (SO)
Colorado 6 New Jersey 1
Detroit 4 Tampa Bay 2
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Detroit at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Montreal at Los Angeles, 3:30 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Buffalo at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Florida at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Detroit at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Anaheim, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Kessel, Tor	16	16	32
Lupul, Tor	12	18	30
Giroux, Pha	13	16	29
Vanek, Buf	12	15	27
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	11	16	27
D.Sedin, Vcr	7	20	27
Stamkos, TB	16	10	26
Versteeg, Fla	12	14	26
Eberle, Edm	9	17	26
Pominville, Buf	9	17	26
Backstrom, Wash	8	18	26
Neal, Pgh	14	11	25
Toews, Chi	13	12	25
Seguin, Bos	12	12	24
Smyth, Edm	12	12	24
Fleischmann, Fla	11	13	24
Kopitar, LA	10	14	24
Ma.Hossa, Chi	9	15	24
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	16	24
P.Kane, Chi	7	17	24
Sharp, Chi	11	12	23
Franzen, Det	10	13	23
Malkin, Pgh	9	14	23
Spezza, Ott	9	14	23
Weiss, Fla	8	15	23
Benn, Dal	6	17	23
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Skinner, Car	10	12	22
Selanne, Ana	8	14	22
Karlsson, Ott	1	21	22
Vrbata, Phx	12	9	21
Perry, Ana	11	10	21

Not including last night's games

LATE WEDNESDAY

WILD 3, OILERS 2 (SO)

First Period
1. Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 11 (Sutton, Eberle) 9:58
Penalties — Staubitz Min, Hordichuk Edm (fighting) 2:12, Lundin Min (holding) 2:52, Brodziak Min (tripping) 10:42, Edmonton bench (too many men; served by Hemsky) 12:30, Jones Edm (goaltender interference) 16:18, Smid Edm (cross-checking) 17:02.
Second Period
2. Edmonton, Eberle 9 (Horcoff, Nugent-Hopkins) 5:10 (pp)
3. Minnesota, Setoguchi 8 (Koivu, Heatley) 11:31
4. Minnesota, Brodziak 6 (Johnson, Scandella) 14:51 (pp)
Penalties — Zanon Min (roughing) 4:31, Sutton Edm (interference) 12:56, Johnson Min (high-sticking) 14:55.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Peckham Edm (roughing) 4:44.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Penalty — Smyth Edm (tripping) 3:07.
Shootout — Minnesota wins 4-3
Minnesota (4) — Bouchard, goal; Koivu, goal; Cullen, miss; Setoguchi, miss; Heatley, goal; Brodziak, goal.
Edmonton (3) — Eberle, goal; Hemsky, miss; Gagner, goal; Nugent-Hopkins, miss; Horcoff, goal; Smyth, miss.
Shots

Minnesota	6	10	10	3—29
Edmonton	10	7	12	1—30

Goal — Minnesota: Backstrom (W,9-5-2); Edmonton: Khabibulin (SOL,9-5-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Minnesota: 1-6; Edmonton: 1-4.
Referees — Ghislain Hebert, Dave Jackson.
Linesmen — David Brisebois, Tony Sericolo.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton.

DUCKS 4, CANADIENS 1

First Period
1. Montreal, Kostitsyn 6 (Plekanec, Gionta) 3:10
2. Anaheim, Getzlaf 5 (Perry) 19:41
Penalties — Beauchemin Ana (interference) 13:00, Smith-Pelly Ana (holding) 14:55, Brookbank Ana (closing hand on puck) 16:46.
Second Period
3. Anaheim, Smith-Pelly 2 (Ryan) 6:06 (pp)
Penalties — St. Denis Mtl (tripping) 3:09, Plekanec Mtl (double high-sticking) 3:40, Selanne Ana (interference) 9:59, Hagman Ana (tripping) 16:39.
Third Period
4. Anaheim, Perry 11 (Beauchemin, Getzlaf) 2:55 (pp)
5. Anaheim, Hagman 2 (Perry, Getzlaf) 18:31 (en)
Penalties — Diaz Mtl (interference) 1:51, Ryan Ana (boarding) 4:13, Moen Mtl (cross-checking) 7:30, Subban Mtl (tripping) 9:59, Subban Mtl (hooking) 12:48, Lydman Ana (hooking) 16:06.
Shots

Montreal	7	10	3	—20
Anaheim	7	11	9	—27

Goal — Montreal: Budaj (L,1-3-0); Anaheim: Hiller (W,6-10-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Montreal: 0-7; Anaheim: 2-7.
Referees — Gord Dwyer, Chris Rooney. **Linesmen** — Brian Mach, Pierre Racicot.
Att. — 13,237 (17,174) at Anaheim, Calif.

HOCKEY

AHL

Last night's results
No games scheduled.
Wednesday's results
Adirondack 4 Syracuse 3
Charlotte 3 Texas 2
Houston 2 Lake Erie 1
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Bridgeport at Albany, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Manchester at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Portland at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
St. John's at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Adirondack at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Hershey at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Springfield at Worcester, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Rochester, 7:35 p.m.
Peoria at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Lake Erie at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Abbotsford at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Houston at Toronto, 3 p.m.
Binghamton at Worcester, 7 p.m.
Albany at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.
Texas at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Hamilton, 7 p.m.
Portland at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Providence at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Peoria, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Abbotsford at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Phil Clark hitting coach of Columbus (IL).
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Zach Miner, INF Jamie Romak, LHP Marlon Arias, LHP Tommy Hottovy, INF Tony Abreu, INF Eric Duncan and INF Sharlon Schoop on minor league contracts.

HOCKEY

NHL

BOSTON BRUINS — Signed C David Krejci to a three-year contract extension. Assigned F Jordan Caron and D Steve Kampfer to Providence (AHL).
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled RW Chris Conner from Grand Rapids (AHL).
N.Y. ISLANDERS — Recalled D Dylan Reese from Bridgeport (AHL) on an emergency basis.
N.Y. RANGERS — Assigned F Andre Deveaux to Connecticut (AHL).

SOCCER

MLS

CHIVAS USA — Declined 2012 contract options on D Andrew Boyens, F Chukwudi Chijindu, M Simon Elliot, D Ante Jazic, G Zach Thornton and D Mariano Trujillo.
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Re-signed G Matt Reis.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	331	223
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	256	241
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	261	281
Miami	3	8	0	.273	212	206
SOUTH						
Houston	8	3	0	.727	293	179
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	226	212
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	138	200
Indianapolis	0	11	0	.000	150	327
NORTH						
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	272	182
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	233	188
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	259	215
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	165	216
WEST						
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	260	274
Denver	6	5	0	.545	221	260
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	153	265
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	249	275

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	270	225
N.Y. Giants	6	5	0	.545	252	277
Philadelphia	4	7	0	.364	257	251
Washington	4	7	0	.364	183	222
SOUTH						
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	362	252
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	259	227
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	199	291
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	252	305
NORTH						
Green Bay	11	0	0	1.000	382	227
Chicago	7	4	0	.636	288	232
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	316	246
Minnesota	2	9	0	.182	214	295
WEST						
San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	262	161
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	185	232
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	213	256
St. Louis	2	9	0	.182	140	270

WEEK 13
Last night's result
Philadelphia at Seattle
Sunday's games
All Times Eastern
Kansas City at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Houston, 1 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Washington, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Miami, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at New England, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
San Diego at Jacksonville, 8:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

Jan. 1, 2012 — Regular season ends.
Jan. 7-8 — Wild-card playoffs.
Jan. 14-15 — Divisional playoffs.
Jan. 22 — Conference championships.
Jan. 29 — Pro Bowl, Honolulu.
Feb. 5 — Super Bowl, Indianapolis.

GOLF

UBS HONG KONG OPEN

At Hong Kong
Par: 70 (35-35)
First Round

Rory McIlroy	31-33—64
David Horsey	32-32—64
Alvaro Quiros	33-31—64
Miguel Angel Jimenez	30-35—65
Gareth Maybin	35-31—66
Darren Beck	33-33—66
Marcus Fraser	32-35—67
Peter Hanson	35-33—68
Juvic Pagunsan	34-34—68
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	34-34—68
Y.E.Yang	32-36—68
Oliver Fisher	36-32—68
Richie Ramsay	33-35—68
Kunal Bhasin	35-33—68

BMW NEW ZEALAND OPEN

At Christchurch, New Zealand
Par: 72 (36-36)
a-amateur
First Round

Brad Kennedy	35-33—68
Jim Cusdin	31-37—68
Leigh McKechnie	36-33—69
Doug Holloway	35-34—69
Craig Parry	36-34—70
Mahal Pearce	34-36—70
Nicholas Cullen	35-35—70
Andrew Evans	35-36—71
Steve Alker	34-37—71
Josh Geary	36-35—71
Jordan Dasler	35-36—71
Steve Horstmann	37-34—71
Paul Spargo	36-35—71
Craig Hasthorpe	36-36—72
Luke Bleumink	35-37—72

NEDBANK CHALLENGE

At Sun City, South Africa
Par: 72 (36-36)
First Round

Charl Schwartzel	37-31—68
Lee Westwood	34-34—68
Robert Karlsson	33-36—69
Simon Dyson	35-35—70
Luke Donald	35-35—70
Martin Kaymer	34-36—70
Kyung-tae Kim	36-34—70
Graeme McDowell	34-36—70
Jason Dufner	34-36—70
Anders Hansen	36-36—72
Francesco Molinari	35-37—72
Darren Clarke	38-36—74

BASEBALL

CALENDAR

Dec. 5-8 — Winter meetings, Dallas.
Dec. 5 — Hall of Fame Veterans Committee vote announced, Dallas.
Dec. 7 — Last day for free agents offered salary arbitration to accept the offers.
Dec. 12 — Last day for teams to offer 2012 contracts to unsigned players. 2012
Jan. 5-13 — Salary arbitrating filing.
Jan. 9 — Hall of Fame voting announced, New York.
Jan. 11-12 — Owners' meetings, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Jan. 17 — Exchange of salary arbitration figures.
Feb. 1-21 — Salary arbitration hearings, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Feb. 19 — Voluntary reporting date for pitchers, catchers and injured players.

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Heat players begin to arrive

Haslem, Bosh among returnees to Miami facility

Heat forward Udonis Haslem said Thursday that teammate and close friend Mike Miller is expected to miss about eight weeks while recovering from surgery.

Miller had an array of injuries last season. Haslem said Miller recently had surgery for what he believes is a hernia. Because the lockout is ongoing, the Heat cannot make any comments about players, and Miller did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

"I know Mike. He's a strong guy, he's going to stay positive and he's going to get back as soon as he can," Haslem said. "The key with Mike is, we've got to fight him not to get back too fast. He's going to want to be out there. He's going to want to play. He's got to just pace himself and get healthy."

Haslem, Chris Bosh and Montreal's Joel Anthony were among a handful of Heat players working out at the team's arena Thursday for the first time since June. It was the first day players could return to team facilities since the NBA lockout began July 1. Free agents Juwan Howard and James Jones also arrived; both were with the Heat last season.

More players are likely over the next few days. Dwyane Wade and LeBron James are expected next week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul shows up

Chris Paul is in New Orleans and working out with Hornets teammates.

Paul, who is the object of rampant trade talk because he can opt out of his contract after this season, says his focus is purely on being with current teammates and getting ready to play for New Orleans this season.

WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Heat forward James Jones, centre, shoots between forwards Udonis Haslem, left, and Chris Bosh.

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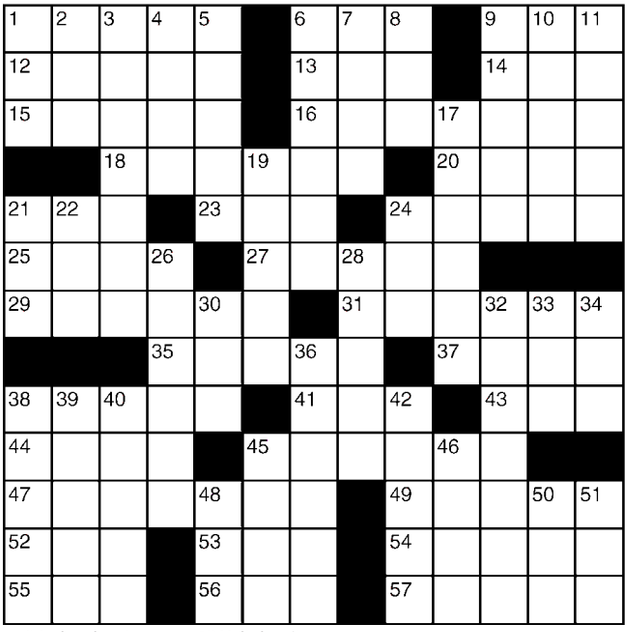
Crossword



Across

1 Recordings
6 Big bother
9 Scale notes
12 Sudden gush
13 Rawls or Reed
14 Exist
15 Places in the heart
16 Range of understanding
18 Basement
20 Sea eagle
21 Handle
23 Fond du —, Wis.
24 The staff of life
25 Auctioneer's cry
27 Foundation
29 Claim
31 "Rug"
35 Hay machine
37 Wrestling style
38 Separated
41 Angry
43 Scoot
44 Japanese rice wine (Var.)
45 Former Secretary of State
47 Chase
49 Crosses
52 UN workers grp.
53 Retainer
54 Wedding VIP
55 Has the skills
56 Peculiar
57 Busybody

Down

1 Airport org.
2 Suitable
3 17th-century composer Henry
4 Great Lake
5 Play for time
6 Andean beast
7 Gloomy
8 Lord's Prayer opener
9 Word with savoir or laissez
10 Sports venue
11 Emulated Betsy Ross
17 Opposing
19 Tag
21 "Born in the —"
22 The Sun
24 Resume, for short
26 Scattered fragments
28 Malt shop item
30 Roscoe
32 Steal
33 Ostrich's kin
34 A billion years
36 Overacted
38 Jellied entree
39 TV cook Deen
40 Ohio city
42 Bowler
45 Multicolored
46 Traditional tales
48 Venusian vessel?
50 Potent pesticide
51 Vast expanse

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	P	A	R		M	A	Y		H	A	N	G
T	I	L	E		O	N	O		O	R	A	L
A	T	O	P		N	A	G		O	G	R	E
G	A	T	E	A	U		A	D	D	U	C	E
			A	T	M			D	O	M		
W	A	T	T		E	N	D	T	O	E	N	D
A	L	E			N	E	O			N	O	I
G	I	G	A	N	T	I	C		S	T	D	S
		U	S	O			U	S	E			
T	A	M	I	N	G		M	O	R	R	I	S
U	V	E	A		A	P	E		E	A	S	E
B	O	N	N		L	A	N		N	I	L	E
A	N	T	S		E	S	T		E	D	E	N

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Some extraordinary things will happen over the next few days. Whether they're good or bad is up to you.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't be afraid to put your own needs first today because they will benefit many other people as well.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you take too many risks, your chances of coming through unscathed will be on the low side.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Be a lot more flexible if you want to take advantage of the opportunities that are now coming your way.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 It may be the case that something has not worked out to your full satisfaction but it's really no big deal.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus indicates health, wealth and happiness. Share the lucky streak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Life is going to get tougher over the next few days, but that's OK because you need to be challenged.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Today's Sun-Mars link will make it easy to get angry but, really, what's the point? Let it all wash over you.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Today's Sun-Mars union could bring you up against someone who is as domineering as you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You seem to be in a bit of a fix at the moment with no obvious way out. Sit tight for the time being.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you don't listen to a loved one's advice today, the results could be traumatic. You don't know it all!

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. There's no point in getting angry or upset today. Try laughing instead. SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

8			9		1			
6	1						7	3
	5			4		6		
	9		8	5				7
		3				1		
4				3	9		8	
		9		2			3	
3	2						6	5
			7		3			2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	3	6	8	2	4	5	1	7
7	4	8	9	1	5	6	3	2
2	1	5	7	6	3	9	8	4
5	7	4	3	8	2	1	6	9
3	6	2	1	7	9	8	4	5
1	8	9	5	4	6	7	2	3
6	9	3	2	5	1	4	7	8
8	5	1	4	3	7	2	9	6
4	2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Cute Stats,
All semester the only reason to come to class has been your beautiful face. I've seen you reading the metro some classes. Try looking back on Friday ;)
DELISH STRANGER

Jon,
<3 my partner in crime **JENNA**

BlueJae
hey i just wanted to let you know how pretty you are,school wouldn't be the same without you, every day on my way to school i hope I'm on the same bus so i can sit beside you, also i wanted to tell you i had a lot of fun watching twilight with you on Saturday- if we're reading this together like we do then i think this is where we kiss, so just close your eyes and lean in babe ;) **DECKS**

KOJI SASAHARA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PETER DEJONG/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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